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紅い王子

くれないおうし

KURENAI OUJI

4

クワハラ ソウタ

桑原草太

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CHAPTER 15 A PLACE TO GO

I skipped a lot but at least it's over
THE HOLD OVER US HAS BEEN VANQUISHED!
AWWESOME!
WE'RE FINALLY FREED FROM ALL OF OUR WORRIES!
WELL, PUT YOUR PENS DOWN!
chatter
chatter
ding dong
ding dong
REALIZE
HMM... THAT'S EASY FOR YOU TO SAY!

THAT'S TRUE...
GLANCE
BUT..
SAKURA DOESN'T SEEM TO WANT TO TALK ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED THE LAST TIME, SO...
EVEN IF WE INSIST...
I DOUBT HE'D BE WILLING TO SPEAK...

IT WAS ONLY A FEW DAYS AGO...
THOSE ARE THE MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY
WHO PUT HIM IN THIS CONDITION!
IT'S NORMAL THAT HE HAS YET TO RECOVER...
.....
WH...
BUT EVEN IF THESE WOUNDS HEAL...
HANA!
AH!
WELL, FIRST WE HAVE TO DISINFECT EVERYTHING...
YOUR FACE IS BLEEDING!
OW, damn!
THUMP
THUMP
NOTHING...
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU!!?
NOTH-ING?!
are you joking?

DO YOU... KNOW WHAT HAPPENED?
ARE YOU AT LEAST OKAY?
ER, NO...
HE REFUSES TO TALK TO US...
HE KEEPS REPEATING "IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL."
IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL, NO BIG DEAL, MY ASS!
DID YOU SEE YOUR FACE?!
Oh, dear!
Does it hurt?
YES
EVEN IF THESE WOUNDS HEAL...
YOU KNOW...
TO ME...HE ALSO HAS SAID NOTHING...
AT ALL.
IT'S POSSIBLE THAT...
SOMEWHERE
HE KEEPS A
DEEPER ONE.
"OUR FAMILY IS JUST A FAKE..."

I CAN'T TELL THEM...
WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM...
I DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO REVEAL IT TO THEM...
BE-CAUSE
I ALSO, I...
HANA!
AH!
I ALSO...
DON'T KNOW THE WHOLE TRUTH,
SO...
IF ONLY...
I WAS PLANNING TO GO TO YOUR HOUSE TODAY, SO WE SHOULD GO TOGETHER!
I have some gifts for your grandmother!
OKAY!
Thanks
RUSTLE
.....
Aren't these? You know my big sister
Hmm. These cakes looks delicious!

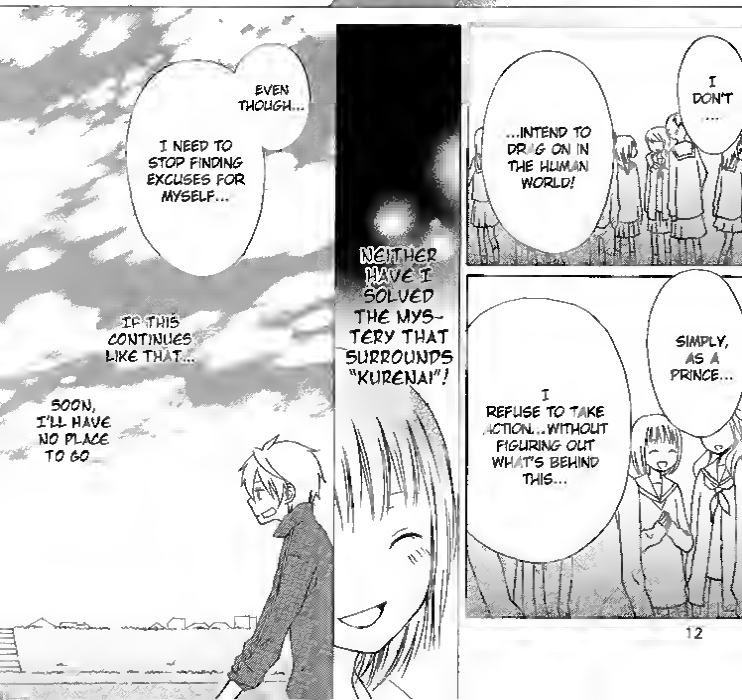
IF ONLY I COULD DO MORE...
SAY JIRO...
DO YOU REALLY WANT TO RUN?
YEAH, AND?
YOU'RE GOING TO TRY TO STOP ME, MAYBE?
NO
NOT AT ALL... BUT WHEN I SEE YOU, EVEN I FEEL HURT!
BESIDES, THE RACE WON'T TAKE PLACE FOR ANOTHER TWO WEEKS...
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO IF YOUR WOUNDS GET WORSE?
Breathe a little...
.....
DON'T WORRY, IT'S JUST A LITTLE SPRAIN...
THE PAIN HAS ALMOST DISAPPEARED!
YOU'RE SO DEDICATED, YOU...
WELL, GO EASY ON IT!
RUN
See you later!
OH...
Whistles
Ryo-chan!
JIRO IS ALREADY BACK?

ARE YOU WORRIED?
ER...
IT'S NORMAL,
BUT AT THE SAME TIME IT'S...
.....
LOOKS LIKE HE'S GOING TO RUN...
I HOPE HE DOESN'T FORCE HIMSELF TOO MUCH...
.....
!
LIKE YOU WERE FROM THE SAME FAMILY, BOTH OF YOU!
before → tripping and falling on the ground
This idiot was probably taking him for a joy ride...
ACCORDING TO HER, JIRO ENDED UP WITH THOSE WOUNDS BECAUSE OF ISSA...
NO...
IT'S NOT THAT!
And because it's a stupid accident he wouldn't dare talk about it.
HAS HINA TOLD YOU ABOUT HER THEORY?
HER THEORY?
?
....HMMM? AREN'T I SAYING NONSENSE?
....YOU THINK SO?
NEVER MIND...
.....

IF ONLY IT COULD BE SUCH AN HARMLESS THING...
Although, it would not be great!
Ha Ha Ha
WELL THEN
I CONCLUDE IT'S MORE SERIOUS THEN
Ah!
ER...
ACTUALLY...
THE THING IS...
YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW HOW TO LIE, POOR THING!
Good girl
Damn it!
SINCE YOU'VE BEEN A GOOD GIRL
I'LL GIVE YOU
SOME GOOD ADVICE!
.....?

IT'S ALWAYS BETTER THAN DOING NOTHING...
MY PACE IS FAIRLY STEADY...
WELL WHATEVER!
thud
DAMN— I'M LAGGING BEHIND...
thud
TO KEEP A LEVEL HEAD!
AND THIS IS THE BETTER WAY...
"IMITATION"
"INCORRIGIBLE"
"WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!"
EVEN IF, REALLY, THE TIMING WASN'T RIGHT...
I KNEW THEY WOULD COME FIND ME AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER... IT WAS AN INEVITABLE OCCURENCE AND I WAS PREPARED TO FACE THEM
BUT
I DIDN'T EXPECT FOR THEM TO COME HERE...

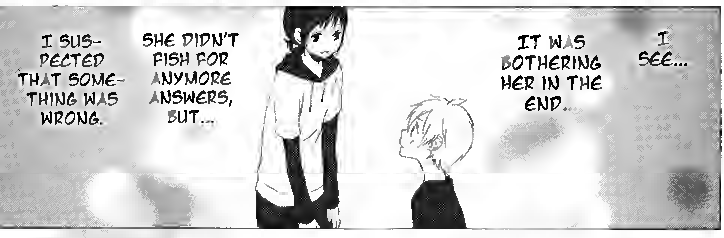
NO
I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN MY MISSION, I'M STILL ABLE TO DO IT.
HAVEN'T YOU BEEN SLACKING OFF ON COLLECTING SOULS, JIRO?
YOU, WHO ARE AN IMITATION...
OF COURSE IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

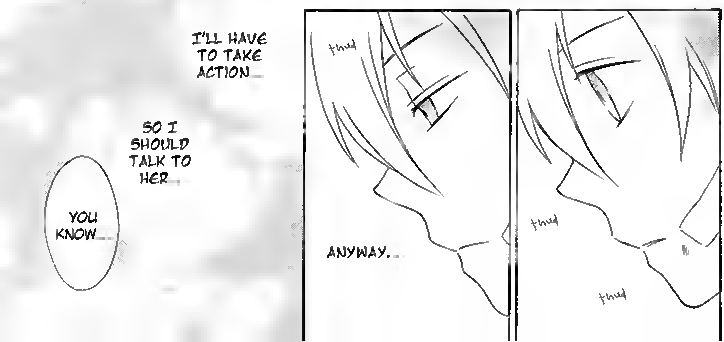

EVEN THOUGH...
I NEED TO STOP FINDING EXCUSES FOR MYSELF...
IF THIS CONTINUES LIKE THAT...
SOON, I'LL HAVE NO PLACE TO GO...
NEITHER HAVE I SOLVED THE MYSTERY THAT SURROUNDS "KURENAI"!
...INTEND TO DRAG ON IN THE HUMAN WORLD!
I DON'T...
I REFUSE TO TAKE ACTION...WITHOUT FIGURING OUT WHAT'S BEHIND THIS...
SIMPLY, AS A PRINCE...

MY TRUE PLACE...
IS AT THE HEAD OF THE DEMON WORLD
MAYBE I DON'T NEED A GOOD REASON TO STEAL HER SOUL ANY-MORE...
ACTU-ALLY...
.....
.....
thud
thud
HUH...
.....
A GOOD REASON...
RELUCTANTLY
...DAMN IT.
.....
KISSED
KISS
KISS
MAY I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT?
IF ONLY SHE COULD BEHAVE DIFFERENTLY, THIS WOULD BE MUCH EASIER!
ALWAYS SMILING STUPIDLY WHEN SHE KNOWS NOTHING!
ANY-WAYS, I WILL NEVER UNDER-STAND THIS GIRL!
AH, it annoys me!
thump
thump
thump

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
HANA!?
HM?
I NEEDED TO TAKE A BREAK!
A BREAK...?!
...HAH?
HOP!
stretch
FREEZE
EH...
WHATEVER...
thud
thud
I CAN'T RUN ANY FASTER TODAY
BE-CAUSE!
WHY?
...GO ON AHEAD!
THUD THUD THUD
LIAR...
Just for the record, we're walking.
.....
.....
thud
thud
thud

……
…GO ON AHEAD, DON'T WAIT FOR ME.
YOU HAVE .. NO REASON. TO WORRY FOR ME.
YOU TOO... ACT AS IF I WASN'T HERE!
GROWL
SHE'S GETTING ON MY NERVES!
…!
AND... YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT COULD HAPPEN...
thud


I SUSPECTED THAT SOMETHING WAS WRONG.
SHE DIDN'T FISH FOR ANYMORE ANSWERS, BUT...
IT WAS BOTHERING HER IN THE END..
I SEE...


I'LL HAVE TO TAKE ACTION...
SO I SHOULD TALK TO HER...
YOU KNOW...
ANYWAY...
thud

ACTU-
ALLY...
I CAME TO THIS COUNTRY FOR A CERTAIN REASON.
YOU MUST HAVE REALIZED IT?
AFTER W TCHING THE FIGHT WITH MY BROTHER AND MY SISTER.
OUR RELATIONSHIP HAS BEEN COMPLI-CATED FOR MANY YEARS, DUE TO A PROBLEM OF SUCCES-SION...
NORMALLY IT'S SIMPLE: THE ELDEST OF THE FAMILY IS CONSIDERED AS THE HEIR OF THE CROWN, BUT...
MY BIRTH DISRUPTED THIS CUSTOM
WITH THE POWER OF KURENAI
THE ONE WHO IS BORN
"WILL BECOME KING!"
AT FIRST ...
I FOUND THEIR BEHAVIOR RIDICULOUS AND I TOLD THEM...
THAT IT WASN'T MY FAULT...
THAT I WAS CHOSEN TO TAKE THE THRONE!
SO FOR WHAT REASONS WERE THEY SO MAD AT ME FOR?

...BUT
MY PARENTS ABANDONED US..
SO I COULD NEVER UNDERSTAND THE REASON OF THIS RELENTLESSNESS
YOUR PARENTS?
YES... OUR FATHER...
AND MY MOTHER...
...DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
.....
THE THREE OF US WERE NOT BORN FROM THE SAME MOTHER.
AND THAT'S NOT EVERYTHING...
I AM NOT THE LEGITIMATE ELDEST SON.
ONLY BORN FROM AN "IMITATION" OF THE FAMILY...

LEAVE TOGETHER SOMEWHERE NOBODY KNOWS!
AND THEN, MY FATHER AND THE "IMITATION" ONE DAY...
THEY ABANDONED US!
IT'S IN THERE THAT I'VE UNDERSTOOD THAT IT WAS NORMAL FOR RENTAROU AND NADESHIKO TO HATE ME
NAIVELY... I THOUGHT IF I EXCELLED IN EVERYTHING...
MY BROTHER AND SISTER WOULD EVENTUALLY RECOGNIZE IN ME... A DECENT HEIR FOR THE THRONE...
AND THEY WOULD SEE THAT I WOULD NEVER BECOME LIKE OUR FATHER...
...BUT DESPITE MY EFFORTS,
NOTHING WENT AS I IMAGINED...

I NEED TO GO BACK!
...LONG STORY SHORT,
MY HOME...
IS OVER THERE!
!
...
WILL HAVE NO MEANING!
MY LIFE...
IF I CAN'T BE KING
YOU'RE WRONG!
ACTUALLY, I...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ME
SO...
SOON, I'LL HAVE NO PLACE TO GO.
AND IF I... DON'T HURRY UP AND FULFILL MY MISSION...
EVERYTHING...
QUESTION-ING...
COMING HERE...

HUH?
THE PROBLEM IS NOT THERE...
WELL, WHAT I MEAN IS...
IT'S THAT...
THE WAY, YOUR SIBLINGS...
JIRO, IS SIMPLY... TREAT YOU...
UNACCEPT-ABLE!
THEY SAID SUCH HORRIBLES THINGS...
HIS EXPRESSION AT THAT MOMENT...
.....
I CAN'T FORGET IT!
AND YOU... STILL WANT TO GO BACK?
IF YOU GO HOME, THEY'LL DO IT AGAIN, RIGHT?
MAYBE YOU CAN HANDLE IT, BUT I...
I DON'T WANT IT TO HAPPEN AGAIN!
IT'S... COMPLETELY OUT OF THE QUESTION!

...WHY...WHY DO YOU CARE?
...THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO ABOUT YOU...
OUT OF THE QUESTION, HUH?
CLENCH
OUCH
ARE YOU CRAZY?!
...DON'T ACT TOUGH
...WHAT
DOES IT CHANGE IF I'M CONCERNED OR NOT?!
I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU...
AND YOU DON'T CARE...
to dump
grrr

IS ALSO "FAKE"?
!
Let go...
I GUESS OUR HOME...
STOP... NO...
I NEVER SAID THAT...
WHEN YOU HAVE SOMEONE WHO IS WAITING FOR YOU SOMEWHERE...
BECAUSE, IT'S THAT, YOU KNOW!
...EH ..
GRANDMOTHER, THE NEIRGHBOR-HOOD KIDS,
AND I...
THIS PLACE...
CAN'T IT BECOME A PLACE TO GO, A HOME?

I'M NOT FROM THIS WORLD...
BUT... I...
.....
A PLACE TO GO...?
EVERY-ONE IS HERE FOR YOU!
OKAY, I GET IT!
MY HOUSE DOESN'T SUIT YOU, RIGHT?
NEVER MIND...
SORRY FOR BOTHER-ING YOU!
!
REALLY YOU'RE UNABLE TO STAY IN ONE PLACE...
Ah...
A TRUE STRAY CAT!
PERK
Isn't it his cat story getting suspicious?!
WHAT?!
GOODBYE.

SFX. Shine
THEY'LL DO IT AGAIN, RIGHT?
IF YOU GO HOME...
I DON'T WANT IT TO HAPPEN AGAIN!
I...
ba-dump
IT'S COMPLETELY OUT OF THE QUESTION!
ba-dump
GOODBYE
ba-dump
ba-

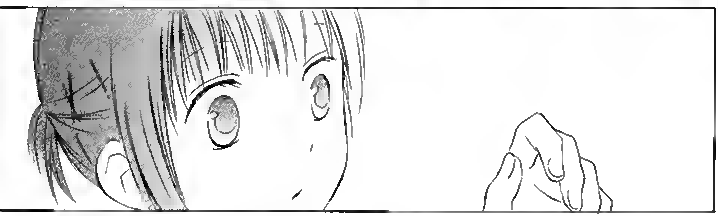
NO...
DON'T GO!
DON'T LEAVE ME!
"GOODBYE, KOUJIROU!"
thud
IT'S...
COMPLETELY...
OUT OF THE QUESTION!

ba-dump
NO...
TCH
DAMN IT
THROB
OUCH...
ba-dump
ba-dump
NO...
ba-dump
GRAB
ba-dump
NO...
DON'T GO!

WHAT...AM I...
DOING...?
Pant
BUT...
Pant
BY THE WAY...
ER...
.....
kerdump
kerdump
CAN YOU COOK SOMETHING THAT MAKES ME FULL...
FOR DINNER TONIGHT,

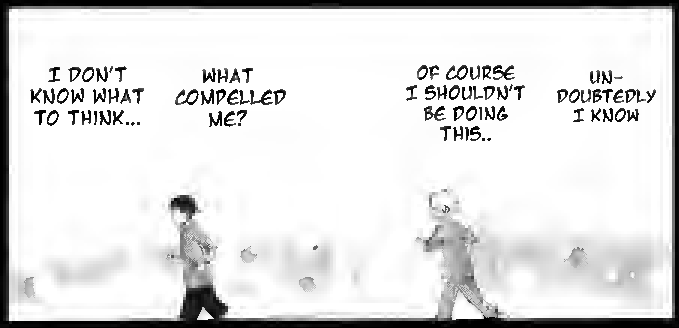
AH!
...BUT!!
BLUSH
!
WHAT AM I SAYING!!?
AH... ER...
I SEE .. "YOU MUST BE FIRM. THAT'S TOUGH LOVE!" HUH
AH...
.....
hmm
I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT TRAINING METHODS...
EXCUSE ME?
A GOOD TRAINER MUST KNOW HOW TO HANDLE BOTH THE CARROT AND THE STICK!
he he
UNDER-STOOD!

AAAH
THIS ISN'T WHAT YOU'RE THINKING!
let go
OF COURSE!
COME ON, HURRY UP!
Otherwise we'll never catch up to the others!
YOU CAN LET GO OF MY HAND
REALIZE
I WON'T FLY AWAY
STILL —— I'M REALLY IMPRESSED BY WAKA'S PERSPICACITY!
WAIT A MINUTE CAN YOU EXPLAIN WHY YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT TRAINING METHODS?
Waka na Yamaz aki
You know with that kind of boy...
You better be distant. It's more effective!
WH... WHAT DID YOU TELL HER EXACTLY?!
I don't need to be trained
BY THE WAY...
HA HA HA... EXCUSE ME!



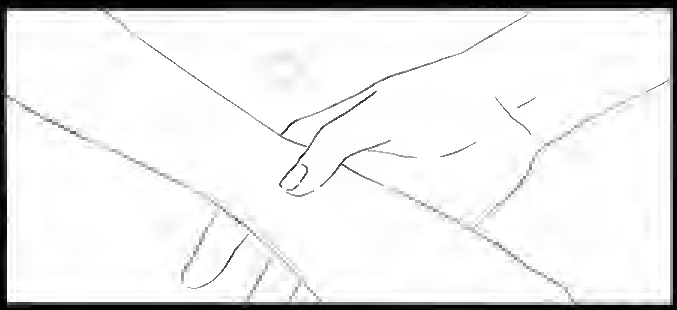
I'LL GIVE YOU...
SOME GOOD ADVICE!

JIRO SPENDS HIS TIME WATCHING YOU
YOU KNOW, EVEN IF HE REFUSES TO ACKNOWL-EDGE IT...
NO-THING!
WHAT?
Now, what if I add a little spice?
IN ANY CASE, MY COOKING WORKS GREAT~~!
YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED, RIGHT?
WHY...


I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK...
WHAT COMPELLED ME?
OF COURSE I SHOULDN'T BE DOING THIS..
UN-DOUBTEDLY I KNOW

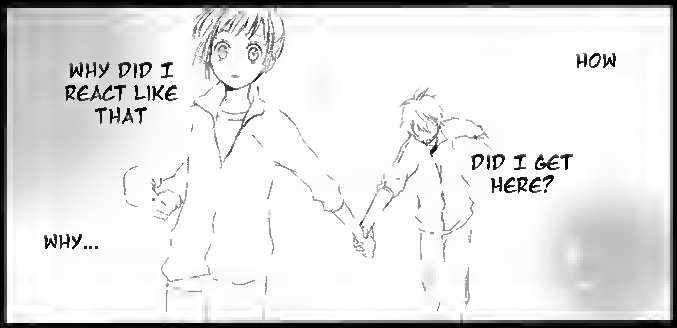
"NO..."

"DON'T GO!"



"I..."

"I DON'T WANT TO GO HOME..."



"BECAUSE MY HOME..."

"IS RIGHT HERE!"

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CHAPTER 16 HOMECOMING

紅の王子
くれないのおうじ

...IS THERE REALLY NO PROBLEM?
AHH— GEEZ— YOU WORRY WAY TOO MUCH
I'M JUST GOING AND SHOWING MY FACE, THERE SHOULDN'T BE ANY PROBLEMS.
MY SIBLINGS MOST LIKELY WON'T BE PRESENT ANYWAYS.
...EH?
THAT...
...THERE-FORE
...UHN
relase
NEXT WEEK
WHACK
!?

FOR MY RETURN...
...WAIT UNTIL THEN

...EH
..HUH?
just now somehow.
UNDERSTOOD!
SALUTE
sorry sorry
...REALLY?
I SAID I'LL RETURN, SO JUST STAY HERE AND WAIT FOR ME!
SO NAGGY!
you

what kind of conversation was that...
THE CONVERSATION JUST NOW, WAS A LITTLE STRANGE...
WELL, WHATEVER
bye bye!

TAKE CARE.
...UHN

TODAY
I
RETURN
HOME,
IN ORDER
TO CLARIFY
THINGS
...PARDON
ME
...EH?
THE
BELL FOR
THE GATE
RANG
AH!
A guest?
I wonder if...
But we're
still clean-
ing...
CREEEAK
clatter
BUT
NOW...
I'M
PASSING
THROUGH
CAN YOU...
OPEN THE
GATE?
...AH!

YOU'RE
STEP
STEP
PRINCE KOUJIROU-!!!?
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME, EVERYONE
*CHATTER
YOUNG—
CHATTER
CHATTER
Prince~ I was so worried!
kyaa~ for real!!
YOUNG MASTER!! WHERE WERE YOU UP TIL NOW-?!
HAHA, I'M SORRY.
AH!
OW
YOU SHOULDN'T DO THIS
YOU SHOULD'VE INFORMED US BEFORE-HAND
THAT'S RIGHT!
AND SINCE THIS MORNING, I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM AROUND

rustle
SERIOUSLY, THAT KING
HE REALLY GIVES US A HEADACHE EVERY SINGLE DAY...
THAT'S RIGHT
EHH---?! AGAIN?
OPEN
YOUR HIGHNESS?
OPEN
YOUR HI...
OPEN
YOUR HIGHNESS——!
...I-I'M SO SORRY I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHERE HE WENT...
IT'S ALL RIGHT...
EXHAUSTED
If it's like always he would have come out by now.
IF HE ISN'T PRESENT, HOW ABOUT RETURNING ANOTHER DAY...
IT WAS MY FAULT FOR RETURNING SO SUDDENLY
SWEATING
PRI-PRINCE!! YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY!
I'M SURE WE'LL FIND HIM SOON.

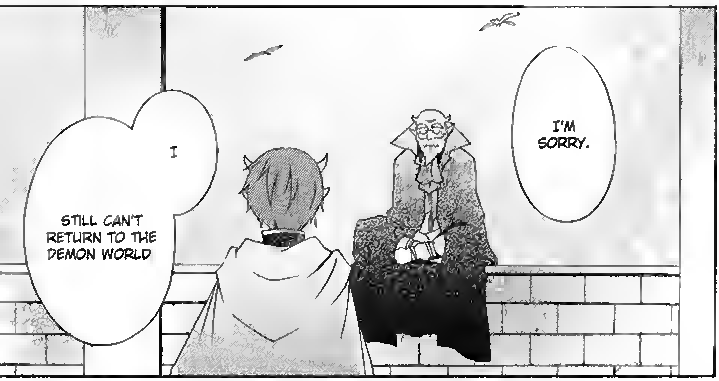
ERM
WHY ARE WE HERE...?
OHH... THIS ACTUALLY...
AROUND THE TIME THE KING STARTED DISAPPEARING
YOUR MOVEMENTS AND WHEREABOUTS ALSO BECAME UNKNOWN.
EH
SO PLEASE, REASSURE HIM BY SHOWING YOUR FACE
HE'S NOT CHEERFUL AT ALL...
OR RATHER, HE WANTS TO BE ALONE...
I BELIEVE HE'S BEEN VERY WORRIED
ABOUT YOU, PRINCE...
WORRIED... HUH...
AH
THERE!
In this kind of place!!

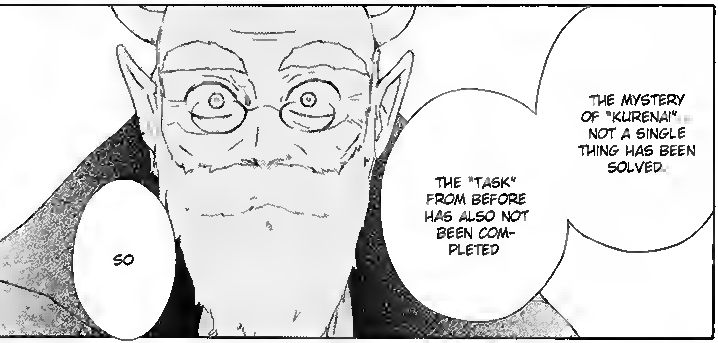
step
step
...NOW
FROM NOW ON, I'LL BE FINE ON MY OWN.
...THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
Then I'm leaving it to you.
IS... IS THAT SO?
YOUR HIGH-NESS!
YOUR HIGH-NESS
!!
...DOES HE ALWAYS DO THIS?
TODAY AS WELL HE IGNORES ME...
rustle
rustle

CAN YOU EVEN FISH HERE?
!!
THIS VOICE BELONGS TO...
flap
flap
I HAVE RETURNED
YOUR HIGH-NESS.
NO.
GRAND-FATHER
. THIS

GLOMPS
BUMP
AGH
SQUISHY
KOU—
JIROOOU
FOR SUCH A LONG TIME, YOU DIDN'T CONTACT ME
I WAS SO WORRIED, SO WORRIED...
!!
STAGGER
AAH
BECAUSE YOU MOVED TOO SUDDENLY...
Take a seat there
GUAN
CRAP MY WAIST
URGH
SHARP PAIN
BUT WHY DIDN'T YOU CONTACT ME, NOT EVEN ONCE?!
Even so I wish you've contacted me.
I AM SORRY
...I SEE
SO THAT'S HOW IT IS
..FORGET IT THE IMPORTANT THING IS, YOU'VE RETURN SAFELY
SO

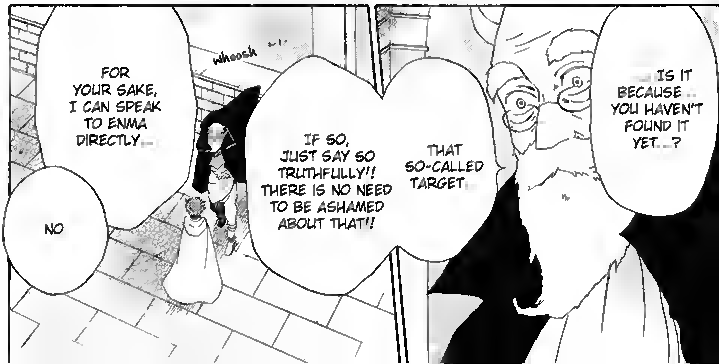
GRAND-FATHER
YOU RETURNING MEANS...
BUT AS EXPECTED OF KOU-JIROU
I'M SURE IT ISN'T SOMETHING ANYONE CAN UNDERSTAND EASILY
FOR A LONG TIME, THIS POWER HAS BEEN SHROUDED IN MYSTERY
I WAS SO EXCITED THAT I COULDN'T SLEEP FOR A PERIOD OF TIME...
WHEN I HEARD FROM ENMA THAT THIS MYSTERIOUS POWER AWOKE BECAUSE OF YOU...
FROM THE BEGINNING, ANY UNDERSTANDING OF THOSE EYES HAVEN'T BEEN CLEAR...ONE OF THE MYTHS SAY THAT IT HELD A HIDDEN MYSTERIOUS POWER...
THE MATTER WITH "KURENAI", HOW WAS IT?


I'M SORRY.
I STILL CAN'T RETURN TO THE DEMON WORLD


THE MYSTERY OF "KURENAI" NOT A SINGLE THING HAS BEEN SOLVED.
THE "TASK" FROM BEFORE HAS ALSO NOT BEEN COMPLETED
SO

I'M GOING TO THE HUMAN WORLD AGAIN

TODAY, I'VE RETURNED,
TO INFORM YOU OF THIS.
...WH—
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
DON'T JOKE AROUND WITH YOUR ELDERS...
THAT TASK... SURELY YOU'VE FINISHED IT, HAVEN'T YOU?
YOU ONLY HAD TO CAPTURE ONE HUMAN SOUL.
WITH THE POWERS YOU HAVE,
SUCH A THING... JUST ONE MERE HUMAN
YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO SETTLE IT RIGHT AWAY, RIGHT...?
BUT, WHY IS IT SO...


...IS IT BECAUSE... YOU HAVEN'T FOUND IT YET...?
THAT SO-CALLED TARGET...
IF SO, JUST SAY SO TRUTHFULLY!! THERE IS NO NEED TO BE ASHAMED ABOUT THAT!!
whoosh
FOR YOUR SAKE, I CAN SPEAK TO ENMA DIRECTLY...
NO

I KNOW WHO THE TARGET IS
NOT ONLY THAT, BUT...
...THE TARGET IS ALSO ALWAYS WITH ME
WHY HAVEN'T YOU GOTTEN RID OF THAT HUMAN?!
IF YOU KNOW WHO IT IS, THEN WHY...
WH...WHAT DO YOU MEAN, KOUJIROU...
...FOR NOW...?
...FOR NOW, I STILL CAN'T.
I STILL DO NOT UNDERSTAND THAT PERSON WELL ENOUGH
THERE IS STILL A LOT TO FIGURE OUT...
SO...
WHY IS THAT PERSON THE TARGET...

THAT PERSON
COULD BE HOLDING KNOWLEDGE OF KURENAI'S SECRET.
SO I HA-VEN'T—
IN THE END,
YOU'RE SAYING YOU CAN'T DO IT?
USING SUCH EXCUSES, YOU'RE SAYING YOU'LL BE RETURNING TO THE HUMAN WORLD?!
I'M... TIRED OF THIS
EVEN IF IT'S FOR DEMON WORLD OR FOR THE SAKE OF "KURENAI".
JUST KNOWING THAT YOU WILL BE RETURNING TO THE HUMAN WORLD,
IS ENOUGH TO MAKE ME FEEL HEARTBRO-KEN....

...AGAIN...
AGAIN...
TO THAT PLACE...
...KOU-JIROU...
DON'T TELL ME...
YOU'RE THINKING OF THE SAME THING AS THAT MAN...?
...EH...
I
I WILL NEVER ALLOW THAT!!

DON'T REPEAT THE MISTAKES
OF THE MAN WHO DISAPPEARED AND ABANDONED THIS COUNTRY... US... AND YOU...!!
...
SINCE IT HAS COME TO THIS, I'LL GO TO THE HUMAN WORLD AND HELP YOU COMPLETE YOUR TASK.
GRANDFATHER.
IT'S USELESS, USELESS!! I SHOULD FORBID YOU FROM GOING TO THAT KIND OF PLACE ANYMORE.
ARGH!
GRANDFATHER
LIES... AFTER ALL, YOU TOO WANT TO LEAVE THIS COUNTRY...
I WOULD NEVER DO SUCH A THING...
GRANDFATHER...IT ISN'T LIKE THAT

GRAND-PA!
I WANT TO DO THIS...
I WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT "KURENAI"!
I UNDER-STAND YOU NOT WANTING ME TO GO TO THE HUMAN WORLD.
...BUT

SHINE
I
RIGHT NOW,
WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THAT PERSON.
THE EYE'S COLOUR IS CHANG-ING...?!
WHAT IS THIS...
ALSO... THIS KOUJIROU IS LIKE A STRANGER TO ME...
THE KOUJIROU THAT OBEDIENTLY LISTENS TO EVERYTHING I SAY...
MY KOUJIROU...

I, AS THE PRINCE
FOR THE SAKE OF THIS COUNTRY, I'VE DECIDED TO CONFRONT THEM.
SHOULD BE RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME, BUT...
RIGHT NOW.....
RIGHT NOW
THIS COUNTRY'S PRINCE IS ME.
I...
AM DIFFERENT FROM MY FATHER!!
KOUJIROU...

I SEE...
SINCE YOU'VE SAID THIS MUCH...
I'LL BELIEVE IN YOU.
BUT...
IF... YOU WERE TO DO THE SAME THING AS THAT MAN, WHEN THAT TIME COMES...
YOU MUST NEVER BETRAY ME...
I UNDER-STAND.
whale
KOUJIROU... THAT... WILL YOU LISTEN TO WHAT I'M GOING TO ASK...
YES?

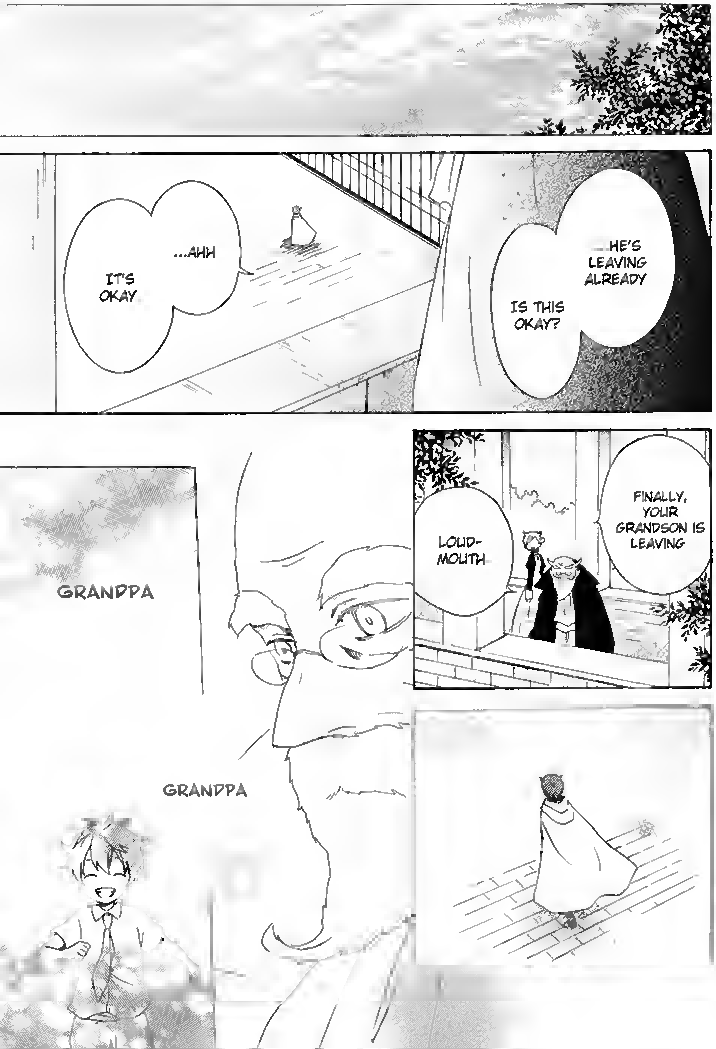
RENTAROU AND NADESHIKO...
DID THEY... CROSS OVER AND LOOK FOR YOU?
NO
IS THAT SO...
THEN... OKAY..
KOUJIROU,
TO ME... YOU'RE THE MOST IMPORTANT.
IF YOU WERE YOU DISAPPEAR, IT WOULD SPELL THE END
FOR THIS COUNTRY... FOR US.

SO...
I UNDER-STAND.
IF WE LOST "KURENAI",
THE SAKURA CLAN WOULD'VE CAME TO AN END
"KURENAI"...
MAYBE..... WHAT HAPPENED AWHILE BACK WASN'T KURENAI'S TRUE POWER...
WERE THOSE... KOUJIROU'S TRUE FEELINGS...
huh,
GRANDFA-THER?

..UHN KOUJIROU
YES?
THE HUMAN YOU MET THERE... ARE THEY VERY STRONG?
TO BE ABLE TO TROUBLE YOU... IS IT BECAUSE THEY USED SOME SORT OF DEVIOUS STRATEGY?
AH...
THAT PERSON.....
LET'S SEE... HOW SHOULD I SAY THIS...
HMM...
IS A
RATHER STRANGE PERSON.

Hm? Feels like I didn't explain anything.
ANOTHER SUBTLE
CHANGE IN THE EYE'S COLOUR...
THE PREVIOUS SUCCESSORS... INHERITED ITS OUTSTANDING POWERS AND TALENT AT THEIR BIRTH.
THE RED EYES I HAVE PROTECTED TILL NOW,
MERELY APPEAR TO BE A DECORATION.

YES.
THIS IS IT.
THIS COLOUR
IS HOW THE REAL "KURENAI" SHOULD LOOK.


...AHH
IT'S OKAY
...HE'S LEAVING ALREADY
IS THIS OKAY?
FINALLY, YOUR GRANDSON IS LEAVING
LOUD-MOUTH
GRANDPA
GRANDPA

GRANDPA, PLAY WITH ME!
...I SEE...
KOUJIROU.. YOU BEGAN TO CHANGE AROUND THE TIME WHEN YOUR FATHER LEFT YOU..
GRANDPA
I WON'T RUN AWAY
I WON'T BETRAY YOU
THEREFORE
...NO...
OR PERHAPS I WAS WRONG
IN THE END
I
DON'T WANT YOU TO ABANDON ME.

TO BE SOMEONE GRANDFATHER CAN BOAST ABOUT,

TO BE A WORTHY PRINCE.

MEAN-WHILE
DEMON WORLD'S NORTHERN FOREST
GEEZ
AFTER NOT COMING HERE FOR A LONG TIME, THE FOREST GREW THICKER AGAIN~
SO HARD TO WALK
rustle
rustle
rustle
rustle
pant
huff
STEP
STEP
YOSH
I'VE ARRIVED
WOW—— HOW NOSTALGIC!
THE FOREST THAT LEADS TO MY SHIROGANE VILLAGE——
.....
SLAP
AL-RIGHT!!
LET'S GO!
AN ALL OUT BATTLE!!

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CHAPTER 17 THE FULL MOON AND THE BOY

HM?
IT SHOULD BE OVER THERE... RIGHT?
HMM... WHY AREN'T THERE ANY MARKINGS OF THE VILLAGE ON THE MAP?
AH
opens
BUT... THEY CAN'T HAVE IT EITHER.
IF THEY WERE FOUND BY OTHER RACES, THEY'D BE IN TROUBLE
...WHAT ARE YOU DOING, AYA-CHAN?
slump

WHAT ?!
I'M SO SORRY —!
stir stomp
.....

...SO I ENDED UP TELLING THEM...
I COULDN'T GO AGAINST THEM
THOSE TWO GOING TO HUMAN WORLD WAS MY FAULT...
YEAH...
rustle
EH...?
ARE YOU HERE APOLOGIZING FOR WHAT HAPPENED LAST TIME?
rustle
rustle

IF IT'S ISSA-KUN, MAYBE YOU COULD STOP THEM... THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT...
THAT'S WHY...
AH...
BECAUSE... DON'T YOU KNOW WHAT NADESHIKO-NEE IS DOING TO KOUJIROU?
stomp
Fate, a other's love...!
SORRY

ABOUT ISSA-KUN.
rustle
rustle
WHY DID I BECOME THE TOPIC OF INTEREST?

I WONDER IF HE'S ANGRY...
.....
I JUST AS I THOUGHT THEY FOUND OUT ABOUT KOUJIROU
HE DIDN'T GET ANGRY... IT'S FINE BECAUSE...
NO HE DEFINITELY GOT ANGRY
HE DEFINITELY DIDN'T LISTEN TO WHAT THEY SAID...
AREN'T YOU EXAGGERATING~
sniffle
AYA-CHAN... ANYWAY I'LL TALK TO YOU LATER.
IT'S GOING TO...
IF SO...
AH
I THINK IT'S BETTER TO HIDE...
EH?

sfx: rustle
sfx: faints
..!? EH..
WHO ARE YOU?
THIS IS THE TERRITORY OF THE SHIROGANE
WE DON'T ALLOW PEOPLE TO COME AND GO AS THEY PLEASE,
SO WATCH IT!

IM SORRY AYA-CHAN
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
EH... AH... YEAH...
sure he's so calm.

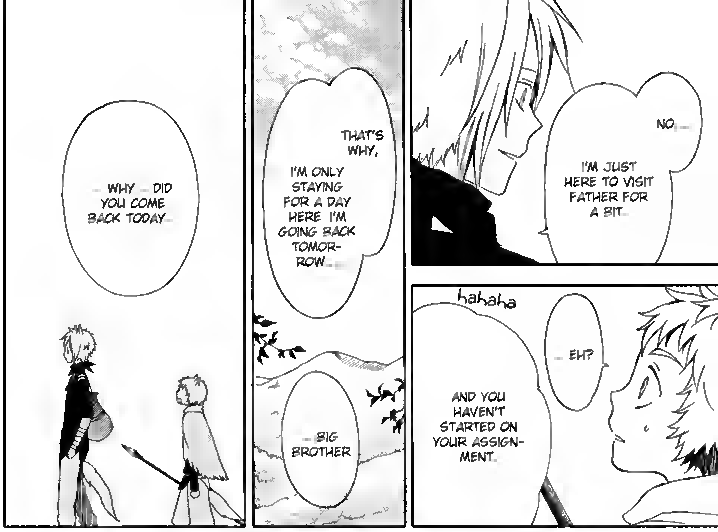
THAT VOICE
COULD IT BE...
Pinch
AH HH !?
WHY YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL STILL AS MISCHIEVOUS AS EVER

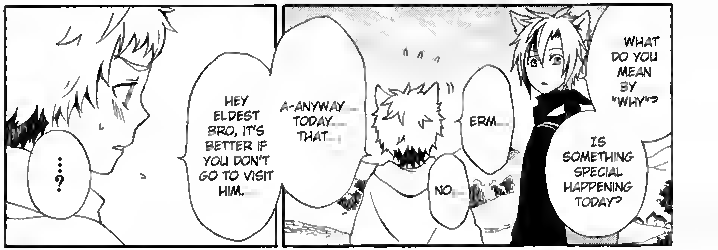
NO MATTER WHAT'S HAPPENING, YOU STILL CAN'T TREAT GIRLS THE RIGHT WAY.
CHIHARU...

SLASH
str: whack
COME
OUT
!?
SLUMP
YES, YES THANKS FOR THE ADVICE.

IS EVERYONE STILL WELL?
YUP,
AS ALWAYS, EVERYONE IS STILL WORKING HARD.
HAHA
OH... SORRY...
BIG BROTHER

ABOUT GOING BACK HOME... HMM... THAT...
HMM?
AH!
THAT'S RIGHT BIG BROTHER!
YOUR "TRAINING" IS ALREADY OVER RIGHT? THEN...
AH—
WEREN'T YOU WITH SOMEONE JUST NOW?
THEN WHAT ABOUT YOU BIG BROTHER?
glance
don't worry about it!
IT'S FINE! EVEN THOUGH YOU CAN'T SEE HIM, OUR HEARTS ARE CONNECTED.
WHERE DID THAT PERSON GO
HUH?
...


NO...
I'M JUST HERE TO VISIT FATHER FOR A BIT...
hahaha
...EH?
AND YOU HAVEN'T STARTED ON YOUR ASSIGN-MENT...
THAT'S WHY, I'M ONLY STAYING FOR A DAY HERE. I'M GOING BACK TOMOR-ROW...
...BIG BROTHER
...WHY... DID YOU COME BACK TODAY...


WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "WHY"?
IS SOMETHING SPECIAL HAPPENING TODAY?
ERM...
NO...
A-ANYWAY TODAY... THAT...
HEY ELDEST BRO, IT'S BETTER IF YOU DON'T GO TO VISIT HIM.
...?

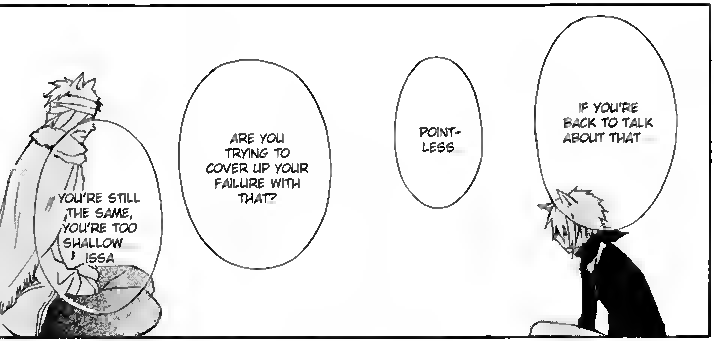
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING IT WAS SO HARD FOR ME TO GET HERE...
rustle
AH...
rustle
IT'S FINE, IT'S FINE — I'M ALREADY PREPARED FOR FATHER'S SCOLDINGS
...!!
W-WHAT SHOULD I DO?
...?

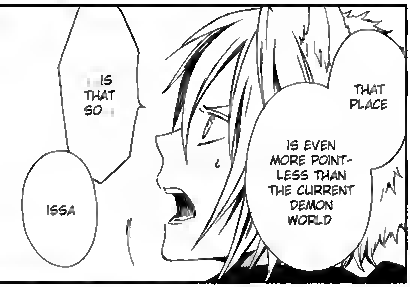
I'm home
HI EVERY-ONE!
CHATTER
-AH !!?
Y-YOUNG CHIEF!
IT BEEN SO LONG~
WELCOME BACK!
wobble
wobble
IT'S BROTHER ISSA!
IS YOUR "ASSIGNMENT" ALREADY OVER!?
as expected of Issa
NO,
I'M NOT DONE WITH IT?
casual
ERM BROTHER
HE'S NOT IN?
hm?
I CAME TO SPEAK WITH FATHER...
freeze!
EH

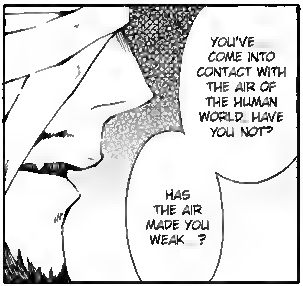
SEE, OTONII
WHY'D YOU CHOOSE TO COME BACK TODAY OUT OF ALL DAYS!!?
ARE YOU AN IDIOT!!?
STUPID BROTHER
AH!?
どりゃっ
WAIT, WHAT...
WHAT HAPPENS TODAY...
BECAUSE
EVERY-THING IS FINE RIGHT, ISSA?
WHAT'S WITH ALL THE RUCKUS?
stomp
...HM?
AH.
shock
WELCOME BACK
YOU'VE WORKED HARD
CHIEF!

LONG TIME NO SEE, FATHER.
ISSA
YOU'RE BACK HUH.
AH
I HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU
.....
ALRIGHT

FATHER,
"GIVE ME A LITTLE MORE TIME",
IS WHAT I SAID
ISSA.
!
WHAT DID YOU SAY JUST NOW...
I'M VERY HAPPY WITH THE STATE THE COUNTRY IS IN NOW, SO TRUTHFULLY I'M NOT INTERESTED IN ASSUMING "THE THRONE"
BUT,
IF FATHER WISHES FOR ME TO DO SO I WOULDN'T DENY SUCH A FUTURE AS WELL
THAT WAS BEFORE I MEET THE PRINCE
HE IS INDEED A STRONG "PRINCE"
BUT... THERE'S MORE TO HIM THAN THAT
THE ROYAL FAMILY STILL HAS SOMETHING... SOMETHING WE DON'T KNOW
IT WON'T BE THAT EASY TO SEIZE THE THRONE FROM THEM,
IS HOW I FEEL
THAT'S WHY... I
QUIET


IF YOU'RE BACK TO TALK ABOUT THAT...
POINT-LESS...
ARE YOU TRYING TO COVER UP YOUR FAILURE WITH THAT?
YOU'RE STILL THE SAME, YOU'RE TOO SHALLOW ! ISSA


IS THAT SO
ISSA
THAT PLACE
IS EVEN MORE POINT-LESS THAN THE CURRENT DEMON WORLD


YOU'VE COME INTO CONTACT WITH THE AIR OF THE HUMAN WORLD. HAVE YOU NOT?
HAS THE AIR MADE YOU WEAK ?

THAT
...I WOULD NEVER LET THAT HAPPEN...
AND CONCERNING THOSE WEAKER DEMONS...
DO NOT OVERES-TIMATE THEM!!

DO YOU PL N TO LET THE "SHIROGANE" CLAN TO DIE OUT LIKE THIS?

NO MATTER WHAT, WE WILL DESTROY THE DEMON CLANS
WITH OUR OWN BARE HANDS
...TCH
I KNEW THAT'S ALL YOU THINK ABOUT!
BUT TODAY
I WON'T SUCCUMB, FATHER...
ANYWAY
LET ME FINISH
IF SO, THEN...
shoooom
DON'T LET ME DOWN... ISSA.

CRASH
GUU
shock.
HMPH
HOW-EVER...
YOU REALLY CAME BACK ON THE RIGHT DAY
DID YOU GAIN ANYTHING FROM YOUR TRIP TO THE HUMAN WORLD?
...!?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN...
DO YOU KNOW WHY I PARTICIPATED IN SUCH A BORING EVENT?
IT'S... BECAUSE "THE PRINCE" IS NEAR YOU...
THERE'S THAT... BUT BEFORE
YOU KILL THE PRINCE, YOU MUST FIRST UNDERSTAND WHAT IT'S LIKE TO KILL YOURSELF.
...!?
IF YOU CAN'T EVEN DO THAT, YOU'RE...

NEVER GOING TO BEAT "KURENAI".
...?
YOU KNOW, ISSA
TIME FLOWS DIFFERENTLY FOR THE DEMON WORLD AND FOR THE HUMAN WORLD
BECAUSE THE MOON CYCLE IS DIFFERENT,
YOU CAN TRAIN QUITE WELL OVER THERE RIGHT?
BECAUSE THE HUMAN WORLD
GET'S A FULL MOON FASTER THAN IN THE DEMON WORLD

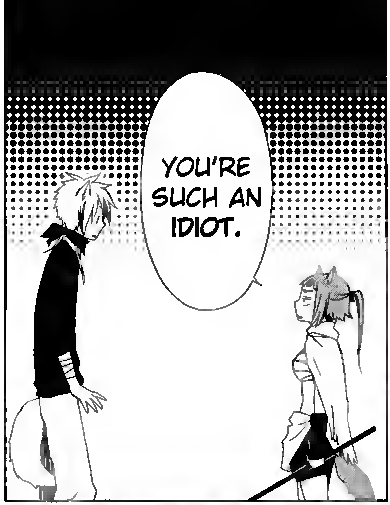
!?
SO HAVE YOU NOTICED YET?
WAS IT HARD?
IN THE HUMAN WORLD,
WAS THERE WAS A PLACE FOR YOU TO HIDE? ISSA—
COULD IT BE
COULD IT BE...—
FATHER.
YOU PUR-POSELY
YOU PURPOSELY PUT ME IN THE HUMAN WORLD...
IF YOU KNEW BEFOREHAND, YOU WOULD'VE RAN AWAY RIGHT?
ISSA...
YES
IZURU
PUT HIM IN THE SMALL HUT OUTSIDE OF THE VILLAGE FOR TONIGHT.
YES SIR.
...!
WAIT WHAT'S HAPPENING TODAY
ARE YOU ONLY REALIZING AT THIS MOMENT I SEE

TODAY
IS A FULL MOON.
!!
YOU COME WITH ME.
Y-YES
thud
thud
THIS IS BAD
IF I DON'T TELL HIM ABOUT THIS !
clench
AH...
THE PERSON FROM EARLIER
huh?
YOU SAID HE LEFT?
SO OUR CONVERSATION IS OVER ?
I GUESS I'LL GO SEE HIM
slam
clang
ISSA,
DON'T THINK WE'RE TREATING YOU BADLY...
WE'RE JUST FOLLOWING ORDERS

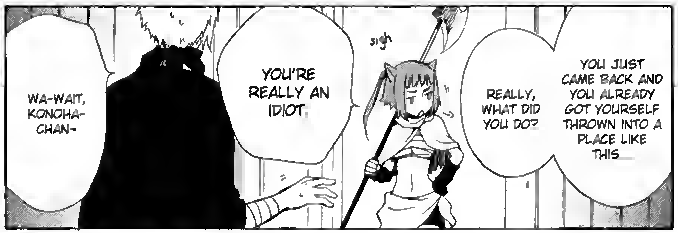
THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT TODAY...
I SHOULD GIVE UP...
EH—?
WHY?
lets get out of a place like this
looks around
looks around
shocked
!!?
WH AA AA !!?
DAMN, EVEN IN HERE THE MOONLIGHT CAN STILL SHINE IN HUH...
so many windows here... windows.
I COULD GET OUT IF I REALLY WANTED TO SINCE IT'S A SMALL HUT...
.....
HA~
I GOT TRICKED
ruo
HAHA IT'S EXACTLY AS YOU SEE IT
.....
I'M BEING PUNISHED.
WHAT HAPPENED? WHY ARE YOU IN THIS PLACE?
SO~
AH... AAH... THAT'S RIGHT
HMM~ DID YOU FORGET?
THERE ISN'T A WALL I CAN'T GO THROUGH!
HO-!!? H-H-HOW DID YOU DO THAT?

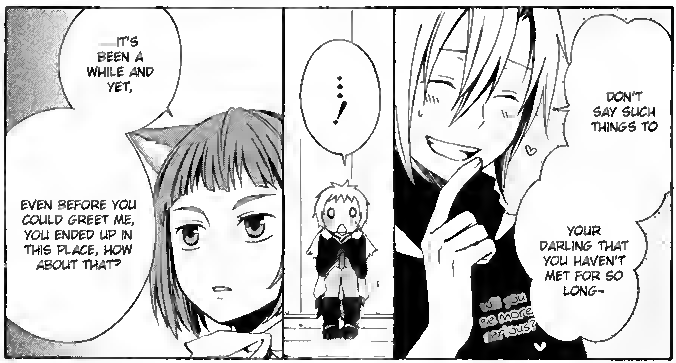
THIS IS THE WORST PUNISHMENT I'VE EVER GOTTEN
WAS HE ANGRY BECAUSE YOU WERE PLAYING TOO MUCH IN THE HUMAN WORLD?
or something?
AHA,
IF HE WAS ANGRY OVER THAT, IT WOULD'VE BEEN FINE
EH-? SO WHAT IS IT?
SORRY,
I REALLY DON'T WANT TO TELL YOU THIS ABOUT ME
BECAUSE IF...
YOU KNEW,
SURELY,
YOU'LL DEFINITELY RESENT ME
EH?

KONOHA
...
WHACK
WHACK
WHACK
WH-WHAT?
A-AYA-CHAN ANYWAY JUST HIDE...
CR
CR
EE
SHOCK
!?
EEK !?
EE
AK
.....
AH

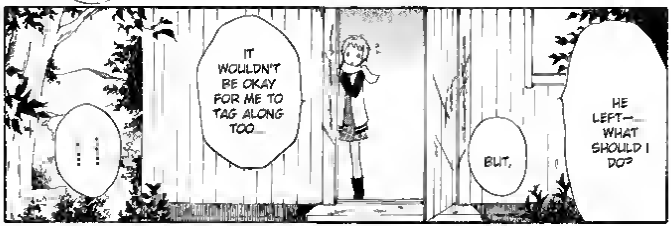

YOU'RE SUCH AN IDIOT.

...LONG TIME NO SEE ISS...
...AH
AFTER LISTENING TO CHIHARU, AND HEARING YOU CAME BACK, I CAME TO SEE YOU...

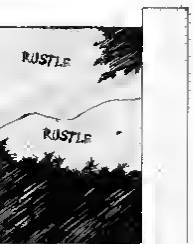

WA-WAIT, KONOHA-CHAN~
YOU'RE REALLY AN IDIOT.
sigh
REALLY, WHAT DID YOU DO?
YOU JUST CAME BACK AND YOU ALREADY GOT YOURSELF THROWN INTO A PLACE LIKE THIS....


...IT'S BEEN A WHILE AND YET,
EVEN BEFORE YOU COULD GREET ME, YOU ENDED UP IN THIS PLACE, HOW ABOUT THAT?
...!
DON'T SAY SUCH THINGS TO
YOUR DARLING THAT YOU HAVEN'T MET FOR SO LONG~

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE
!?
grab
IT'S FINE ANYWAY
I'M SORRY
IT'S OKAY
AS LONG AS I WORK HARD TONIGHT, MY FATHER WILL BE PLEASED...
IT'S FINE!
IT'LL BE BAD IF WE GET DISCO-VERED
NO KONOHA
EH!?
COME ON, FASTER
KONOHA
COMPARED TO THE MOON TONIGHT,
NOTHING IS SCARY ANYMORE.
SEVERE PUNISHMENTS OR WHATEVER, I'LL TAKE ALL OF THEM.

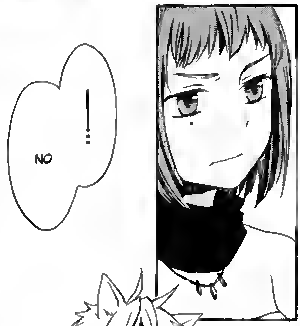


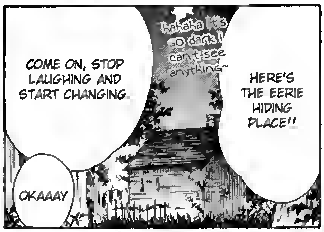
"NOTHING IS SCARY ANYMORE."



step
step
step
step
step
stop!
rustle

ISSA IF YOU DON'T HURRY UP, THE SUN WILL SET
huh
OH, SORRY, SORRY
step
OHHH! IT'S BEEN SO LONG— SINCE I WAS LAST IN THIS FOREST.


NO
!!


hahaha it's so dark can't see anything
HERE'S THE EERIE HIDING PLACE!!
COME ON, STOP LAUGHING AND START CHANGING.
OKAAAY

.....
there's a lot of dust gotta clean this place up
KO NOHA

EH?

YOU SHOULD HEAD BACK HOME
I'LL BE FINE ALONE
THANK YOU

IF SOMEONE DISCOVERS YOU,
ISSA . YOU'RE PLANNING TO SAY "I ESCAPED ALONE", RIGHT?
I WON'T LET THAT HAPPEN.
THAT'S WHY I'M HERE WITH YOU TONIGHT.
N-N-NO NO WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, KONOHA?
IT'S FINE! SO FAR NO ONE HAS FOUND THIS PLACE YET
SO NO
N-NO BUT THIS REALLY
WHAT
ERM... KONOHA
I'M A MAN YOU KNOW?
do you understand?
YEAH, WHAT OF IT?
I DON'T SEE A PROBLEM AT ALL.
I know that area.
.....
I'VE BEEN BETROTHED TO YOU ANYWAY
...THAT'S WHY,
I BEG OF YOU KONOHA...
NO.

KONO HA.
I WON'T LET YOU HANDLE THIS ALONE
I'LL NEVER GO BACK TODAY
GO BACK!
shock
...I'M NO LONGER A KID THAT NEEDS TO BE TAKEN CARE OF...
...I'LL BE FINE JUST BY MYSELF...
SO JUST GO BACK.
AND LEAVE ME ALONE.
.....
STOP IT ISSA...
WHAT-EVER YOU RE DOING
STOP IT

I'VE...
I'VE HAD ENOUGH
...KO NOHA?
STOP PUTTING ON A STRONG FRONT.
DO YOU HAVE TO BE THIS WAY?
YOU LIKE ME EITHER
YOU DON'T HAVE TO PRETEND THAT
THE TRUTH IS...
TO BE BY MY SIDE ISN'T IT?
IT'S REALLY HARD FOR YOU
SINCE THAT TIME,
IT'S ALWAYS BEEN HARD

stomp
stomp
stomp
stomp
stomp
OH NO OH NO IT RAN THIS WAY—!!
...KONOHA SAVE ME!
rustle
WO OO SH
...TCH
ISSA again
Issa!
slow down
where are you going?
JYA!
It's over there!
stomp
stomp
stomp
stomp
chatter
stomp
stomp
AH! CHIEF!
chatter
ISSA RAN OFF AGAIN!
THANK YOU KONOHA.
GEEZ
ARE YOU OKAY?
pant
pant
YEAH
Y-
land
six third

CHIEF
OUCH!
thonk
REALLY, THIS SILLY SON
WAAH... BUT DAD-
YOU'RE MY OWN FLESH AND BLOOD, MY SON...
YOU NEED TO WORK HARD OR I'LL WORRY ABOUT YOU
THAT'S RIGHT CHIEF!
ah!
you still have to worry about lots of other things right?
YOU REALLY...
...CAN'T DO WITHOUT ME HUH,
ISSA.
HEHE... SORRY.
WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT BRINGING ISSA ALONG FOR TONIGHT'S FULL MOON'S HUNT?
HUNT-ING?
EH !?
YEP!
ISSA RARELY GOES RIGHT?
AH YEAH
ISN'T IT BORING TO ALWAYS BE HOUSE-SITTING ALONE?
BUT...
IT'S FINE WITH ME...
I'D JUST SLOW EVERYONE DOWN AND...
ANYWAY...
I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ON A FULL MOON NIGHT...

BRINGING ISSA ALONG ON A FULL MOON NIGHT...
TO THE OTHER CLANS, IT'S LIKE BRINGING ALONG A PREY
I WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF KONOHA COULD MAKE ISSA STRONG
THAT'S BULLSHIT!
IF YOU'D ONLY WORK A LITTLE HARDER.
shock
WELL
IT'S TRUE THAT YOU'D PROBABLY SLOW EVERY ONE DOWN
CHIEF!
IF YOU INSIST ON BRINGING HIM ALONG, AND HE DIES,
IT'LL ALL BE OVER...
.....
I UNDER-STAND...
.....
LET'S GO NOW.
YES.
BE CAREFUL EVERYONE.

YEAH
WORK HARD KONOHA!
close
THE REA-SON
I'M ALONE
DON'T OPEN THE WINDOWS!
YOU BE CAREFUL AS WELL—
YEAH! I KNOW
touch
I TRANS-FORMED AGAIN TODAY TOO
AH—
MY TEETH ARE ALSO
GONE
IS BE-CAUSE
I'M THE ONLY PERSON IN THE CLAN
ONCE AGAIN,
I'VE TRANS-FORMED INTO A HUMAN
I M THE ONLY ONE THAT S BEEN CURSED

clench
FROM TIME TO TIME
I THINK
URGH.
THIS FEELS BAD
PULL
cough
cough
AM I REALLY
pant
pant
I'M NOT EVEN ...
A "WOLF" ANY-MORE
pant
A LYCAN-THROPE?
THINGS LIKE THAT
FOR WOLVES THE FULL MOON NIGHT
IS WHEN THEIR POWERS GET STRONGER
AND YET
I'M THE ONLY ONE THAT...

MAYBE I...
I WAS BORN INTO THE WRONG PLACE...
AND THINGS LIKE THAT

FROM TIME TO TIME
I FEEL THIS WAY
AH!
ISSA'S HANGING OUT WITH THE GIRLS AGAIN!
LAME...
SMACK
WHAT—WHAT A BEASTLY GIRL!
UNWELCOMED PEOPLE WHO KEEP TALKING AND TALKING ARE EVEN MORE LAME,
SO SCRAM.
RAGE
H...
ISSA YOU NEED TO STAND YOUR GROUND WITH MORE FORCE!
REALLY
those guys got so happy with just that
ERR... ERM...
that's a bit
DON'T BE ANGRY, DON'T BE ANGRY...
NOW NOW KONOHA!
HUG
ISSA IS TOO NICE, IT CAN'T BE HELPED~
...THIS GUY
kya
kya
kya
right
HOW IS HE GOING TO BE A GOOD LYCANTHROPE AT THIS RATE
IF THOSE GUYS COME BACK AGAIN,
WE'LL GO AFTER THEM FOR YOU!
T-THANK YOU...
NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT THOUGH...
heh
kya
kya
...BUT, IT'S FINE
I'M NOT BOTHERED BY IT AT ALL

I ALREADY KNOW THAT
I CAN'T BE LIKE THEM.
"I WANT TO FIGHT"
"I WANT TO STEAL"
"I WANT TO KILL"
I'VE NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT THOSE THINGS AT ALL.
JUST PEACE IS GOOD ENOUGH.
IF EVERYONE IS GETTING ALONG WELL, THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH.
THAT'S WHAT I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT
BUT THAT WON'T DO HUH?
BECAUSE I'VE SAID SUCH SELFISH THINGS...
COULD IT BE THAT...
I'VE ANGERED THE GODS?
ISSA, I'M GOING!
EH —?
stomp
stomp
stomp
stomp
stomp
stomp
where?
rustle
rustle
rustle
rustle

ISSA,
MOVE IT!
EH ...?
TCH
KONOHA HUH

IZURU WHAT'RE YOU DOING, YOU PRICK?!
HE'S SO SLOW THAT HE HAD ME MISTAKE HIM FOR PREY
leap
hey now!
WHAT!? WA-WAIT A MINUTE!
... KONOHA ...

I was really shocked
T-THANK YOU.
hehe
exhausted
YOU'RE REALLY ...

IF YOU KEEP THIS UP SOMEDAY YOU'LL REALLY GET KILLED YOU KNOW!?
WHY DON'T YOU EVER THINK ABOUT GETTING STRONGER?
RIGHT NOW, IT'S OKAY BECAUSE I'M HERE BY YOUR SIDE
A...A... I SEE...
THEN...

ALWAYS BE BY MY SIDE KONOHA.
EH?
...I
BE-CAUSE
IT'S OKAY AS LONG AS KONOHA IS HERE
...IS THAT A "NO"?
ba-dump
I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT YOU, ISSA.
EHE HE
AND

IN A PLACE LIKE THIS
THAT PERSON JUST SUDDENLY
APPEARED
blink
AS I THOUGHT
AH
twirl
I WONDER WHO'S SINGING...
IS THIS... A SONG?
WAS IT JUST MY IMAGINATION?
I HEARD SOMETHING JUST NOW
AH~ THE MOON IS STILL SHINING BRIGHTLY
open
EVERYONE DIDN'T GO HUNTING TODAY...
HMM~?
...HM
too right
sit up
grow!
grow!

IT'LL BE FINE IF
IT'S ONLY FOR A LITTLE WHILE, RIGHT?
WHAT A PRETTY...
SONG
rustle
rustle
WHAT'S GOING ON?
I WONDER WHY...
I'M NOT IN PAIN TODAY
EVEN THOUGH TODAY...
I'M FINE

—SUDDENLY,

MY "GOD"
APPEARED.
OUT OF
NOWHERE,

SINCE THAT DAY...
I'VE BEEN GOING TO THAT SAME SPOT ON A FULL MOON NIGHT...
shaa
WHY?
shaa
whoosh

RAW PROVIDER rawlst CLEANER litoxpinky
TRANSLATOR Rii TYPESETTER Haruiro
PROOFREADER litoxpinky QCER litoxpinky
紅の王子

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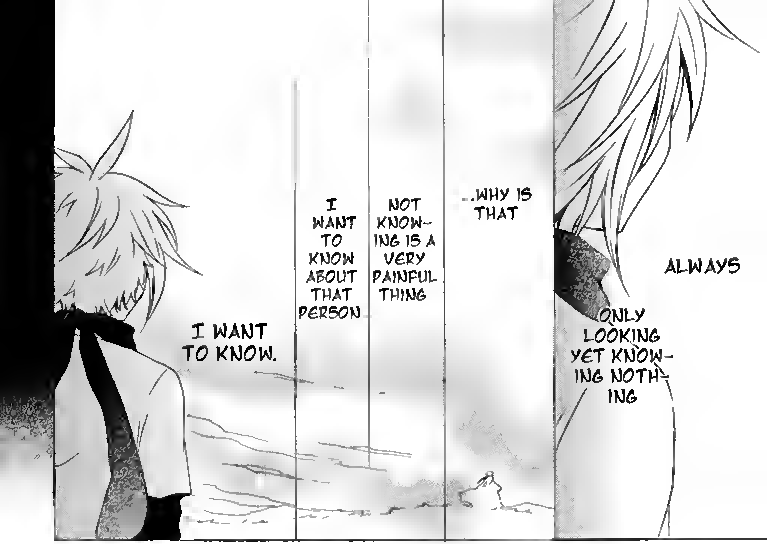
CHAPTER 18 THE FULL MOON AND THE GIRL

Haa
...ah
IT'S STILL THERE...
EVERY FULL MOON LIT NIGHT
THAT PERSON'S SONG CAN BE HEARD
EVERY TIME I OPEN MY EYES,
AND, THEN
BEFORE I REALISE IT,
I END UP AT THIS PLACE.
TODAY TOO...LOOKS LIKE IT'S ALRIGHT...
.....
.....

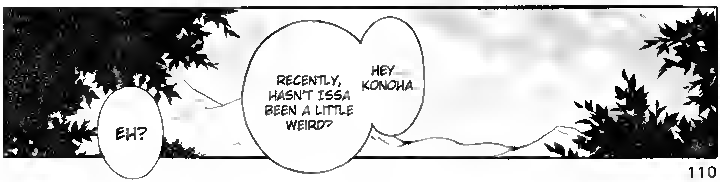
IT WAS WHEN THAT PERSON FIRST CAME HERE
THAT I FINALLY LET MYSELF BE FULLY SOAKED BY THE MOON-LIGHT.
THE MOON THAT I HAD ALWAYS AVOIDED MY GAZE FROM,
I STARED AT IT WITHOUT MOVING MY GAZE AWAY
I HAD HATED IT SO MUCH BACK THEN.
.....
WHY...
WHY AM I NOW
STANDING RIGHT HERE AT THIS PLACE?
whoosh

IT'S JUST A COINCIDENCE THAT THAT PERSON IS ALWAYS HERE
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO THAT PERSON IS...
...NO NO, THAT DEFINITELY ISN'T THE CASE.
THAT PERSON JUST HAPPENS TO BE SINGING THERE...
"DON'T KNOW"
HOWEVER "NOT KNOWING"
BUT I KNOW HER
THAT PERSON TOO, DOESN'T KNOW ME
IS THAT PERSON
THE REASON ..?


I WANT TO KNOW.
I WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THAT PERSON
NOT KNOW-ING IS A VERY PAINFUL THING
..WHY IS THAT
ALWAYS
ONLY LOOKING YET KNOW-ING NOTH-ING

EVEN SO

WHAT SHOULD I DO?



CLATTER
AH
LOOK, LOOK.
HE USED TO ALWAYS SAY "I'M GOING TO LOSE ANYWAY" AND SO SLACKS OFF ON TRAINING.
...T NIGHT, WHEN WE'RE SUPPOSED TO GO ON HUNTS HE SAYS "IT'S TOO SCARY I DON'T WANT TO GO".
CLATTER
CLATTER
YET NOW HE'S REALLY GIVING HIS ALL AND PARTICIPATING IN TRAINING!
WHAT IN THE WORLD HAS GOTTEN INTO HIM?
...THERE ARE INJURIES ON HIS WHOLE BODY
YEAH... THAT'S TRUE...
REALLY, WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH HIM...
—...EH?
I'M JUST SAYING—

Everyone was surprised, you know!
THAT'S ALL.
YOU HAVE SUDDENLY BECOME VERY ENTHUSIASTIC?
LATELY YOU...
AH... AHAHA
AHH...HOW DO I SAY THIS...
I MAY NOT HAVE BEEN PUTTING IN MUCH EFFORT BEFORE.
BUT I CAN'T APPEAR TOO WEAK YOU KNOW, OR I WON'T HAVE ANY FACE...
...?
WHAT ARE YOU SPEWING ABOUT NOT HAVING FACE...?
...THIS!
IT'S NOTHING!
Is there even someone who cares about that...?
ANYWAYS THAT PERSON DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT ME YET.
I WANT TO GET STRONGER WITH MY OWN ABILITY FIRST BEFORE I GOING TO MEET THAT PERSON.
...THAT PERSON, "WHO" ?
Eh.
AHH
AH—...I ACCIDENTALLY LET IT SLIP...
ABOUT THAT,
EVERY TIME THERE'S A FULL MOON THIS INCREDIBLE WOMAN APPEARS RIGHT IN THIS VILLAGE.

THAT PERSON IS ALWAYS SINGING A BEAUTIFUL SONG,
ALWAYS GUIDING ME,
TO WHERE THE FULL MOON IS
WAIT-
FULL MOON... YOU...
NOTHING HAPPENS.
IF THAT PERSON IS THERE,
NOTHING WILL HAPPEN.
THAT PERSON ALLOWED ME...
TO SEE THE FULL MOON.
IF THAT PERSON IS BY MY SIDE,
SOME-HOW,
SOME-HOW,
I FEEL LIKE I CAN DO ANY-THING

PERHAPS THAT WOMAN IS
MY "GOD", WHO KNOWS
"THAT PERSON ALLOWED ME TO SEE THE FULL MOON"
"FOR ME, AS LONG AS KONOHA IS HERE, IT'S ENOUGH"
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING
YOU... DON'T SAY THIS IN FRONT OF ME
BECAUSE ISSA
CAN'T BE WITHOUT ME.

DURING THE NIGHTS WHEN THERE'S A FULL MOON EVERYONE SLEEPS INSTEAD OF HUNTS.
BUT RECENTLY EVERYONE'S BEEN WEIRD?
...EH?
EVERYTIME I WHEN WAKE UP, I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO'S AWAKE...
ON THE NEXT FULL MOON BRING ME ALONG!
EHH...IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER BUT...
grab
WHY?
ISSA.
I TOO, WANT TO MEET THAT PERSON.
ASLEEP? EVERYONE ?
I HAVEN'T HAD ANY MEMORIES OF SETTING OUT DURING NIGHTS WITH A FULL MOON...
NOW THAT HE MENTIONS IT, RECENTLY
cough cough
WAS THE EXCEPTION?
ISSA ALONE
.....

GOOD.
clench
TODAY TOO, IT SEEMS ALRIGHT!
KONOHA— LET'S GO—
... HU...
OKAY...
stagger
THIS MEANS... WHAT?
THIS FEELING... I'M FINDING IT A LITTLE HARD TO STAND...
... EVERY-ONE REALLY IS ASLEEP...
THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE...!
IF I'M ASLEEP, YOU DEFINITELY HAVE TO WAKE ME UP, GOT IT?
WHOA?
I GET IT—
ON THE OTHER HAND, WHAT IS THIS SONG...
MY HEAD IS START-ING TO HURT,
BUT ISSA'S STILL SO ENERGETIC...

GULP
DEFINITELY
I HAVE TO CLEAR THIS DR
!

...
IS IT THAT PERSON?
pant
pant
...YEA.
ISSA?
AHHH, HOW EMBARRASSING!
SOMEHOW MY FACE JUST GOT RED...
rub
rub
hehe
YOU SEE...UNTIL TODAY...
I STILL DIDN'T KNOW THAT THE FULL MOON WAS THIS BEAUTIFUL...
IF I NEVER CAME...
IF I DIDN'T COME HERE TO WHERE THAT PERSON IS,
I WOULD NEVER HAVE KNOWN...
SO NOW,

I'VE CALLED HIM OUT LIKE THIS, AND HE BLATANTLY REFUSED!
FROM THOSE DAYS FULL OF HATING THE FULL MOON
ALWAYS,
I'M FEELING REALLY GLAD.
IS GAZING AT THE FULL MOON
THAT SAME ISSA
I ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT WAY
HIS EYES SHOULD ONLY SEE ME.
THOSE EYES...
BUT

THAT IS
A THING OF THE PAST...
Ha...
Ha
"FOR ME"
Haa
"AS LONG AS KONOHA IS HERE, THAT'S ENOUGH."
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME SOONER ?
IF YOUR FEELINGS WERE ONLY THIS MUCH,
YOU WON'T EVEN BE ABLE TO COME BACK HERE ON THE NEXT FULL MOON.
MAYBE...
ONLY AN UNKNOWING OUTSIDER COULD DO
BEING ABLE TO DO SOMETHING SO DANGEROUS
COMING TO THIS VILLAGE ON THE NIGHT OF THE FULL MOON.
...EH?

blush
...H...
HOW DO YOU SAY THIS...
B-BU...
BUT...
UHM...
WAIT!!
...

...WHAT IS IT?
SO INDECISIVE...
ISSA REALLY IS NO GOOD.
JUST LOOKING ISN'T GOING TO CHANGE ANYTHING.
...KONOHA?
...THAT
BEING A WOLF OR WHATEVER, WHY NOT JUST GIVE IT ALL UP?
GIVE UP AND... GO FOLLOW THAT PERSON EVERYWHERE, ISN'T THAT BETTER?
BECAUSE ISSA,
IN THIS PLACE, YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING WITHOUT ME.

IF I GO ON LIKE THIS, I WOULD ONLY BECOME A USELESS GUY.
YEAH THAT'S TRUE...
.....
SOME-THING THAT SHOUL-DN'T HAVE BEEN SAID ACCI-DENTALLY LEFT MY MOUTH
GASP
KONOHA.
...THANKS.
HE CAN DO ANY-THING.
CAN BECOME STRONG FOR THAT PERSON'S SAKE.
..ISSA
rustle
EXHAUSTED
rustle

"ALWAYS STAY BY MY SIDE, KONOHA."
LIAR
AKIHIRO
AKIHIRO
—T
THAT...
pauses
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP

—T...
T—...
THAT...
T—
THAT...
I'M...
NICE SINGING...
I...LOVE YOUR SONG...
THAT...
T—... THAT ...
EVERYTIME THERE'S A FULL MOON, ARE YOU HERE?
WHERE... ARE YOU FROM?
THIS IS THE SHIROGANE'S TERRITORY... SO...
YOU'LL BE IN DANGER IF YOU'RE ALONE.
...

rustle
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
YOU,
YOU ARE
"HUMAN"
AREN'T YOU?
...N NO... NOW THAT I LOOK CLOSELY YOU DON'T LOOK HUMAN...
A-ACTUALLY I...
IS THAT WRONG?
DOES THAT MEAN YOU'RE A PERSON FROM THE DEMON WORLD...?
...HUH?
THEN.
AH OF COURSE
BE-CAUSE HERE IS
...I KNEW IT!
There really is a person who's not bad!
Like this, I can return to my homeland properly
GRAB
HUH?!
SHINE
...HUH...
twinkle

IN FRONT OF MY EYES, EVERYTHING IS PITCH BLACK.
I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING.
WHAT?

...ISSA?
...KO-NOHA...
!
...HUH? I ...
WHAT HAPPENED BEFORE...
AH YOU CAN'T GET UP YET...
YOU AWOKE ON YOUR OWN, ISSA
... THAT...
.....
...DAD.
CHIEF...
HOW'S YOUR HE ILTH? CAN YOU STAND UP ALREADY?
...EH?
...WHAT, YOU DON'T REMEMBER?
YOU "AWAKENED".

THE "WOLF"
GRRRAAAGH
.....
IS... SA?
IGRR
GRRRHH

—WHAT?
ISSA...
WHAT'S WRONG!?
HEY
ISSA...
GRRAAGHH
ISSA!
disappears
oh thing

EHH!?
ISSA "AWAKENED"!?
AHHH... WE HEARD KONOHA'S HOWL FROM FAR AWAY AND BY THE TIME WE RUSHED THERE,
ISSA HAD ALREADY CHANGED BACK
THAT GUY
KILLED AN ANGEL.
THAT GUY HAS FINALLY...
SHOWN HIS TERRIFYING INSTINCTS.
A— .. ANGEL!?
I SAW IT BESIDE ISSA,
LAY A BLOOD-SOAKED GIRL AND ON HER BACK WERE...
WHITE FEATHERS
THOSE WERE UNDOUBTEDLY PURE "ANGEL'S FEATHERS"
...WHAT IS THIS... DOES THIS MEAN ISSA...
CHATTER
!
CHATTER
I DIDN'T SENSE ANY OTHER ANGELS EITHER.
DON'T WORRY I ALREADY HANDLED IT.
ABOUT THAT THAT ANGEL

mumble
BUT
ISN'T THIS A GOOD THING IN SOME WAY?
YEA
SO... IS THAT IT...
IF WE HAVE ISSA WITH US,
WE CAN BEAT EVEN "ANGELS"
IS THAT IT...
INDEED
BEASTS AND ANGELS...
YES... IF WE PUT IT THIS WAY...
IF ISSA IS HERE,
VICTORY IS POSSIBLE ..?
YOU'RE LYING

THAT IS YOUR TRUE APPEARANCE.
ACCEPT IT, ISSA.
..WHY?
I KILLED THAT PERSON?
WHY?
I ONLY WANTED..
YOU "AWAKENED"
THE REAL "WOLF"
I... KILLED THAT PERSON?
WHY?
IT CAN'T BE...BECAUSE DURING A NIGHT OF THE FULL MOON I'M ONLY AN ORDINARY
THAT KIND OF THING IS IMPOSSIBLE
ISSA.
TO MEET THAT PERSON...

IT CAN'T BE.
IT'S ISSA YOU KNOW?
THAT'S TRUE.
whisper
I HEARD A LITTLE WHILE AGO HE WAS CALLED BY THE ELDER.
whisper
EH—?
WHAT WHAT? DID THAT GUY DO SOME-THING?
... ISSA HAS BEEN IN RATHER LOW SPIRITS LATELY.
WHAT'S THE MATTER?

I CAN'T HEAR THAT SINGING ANYMORE
chatter
chatter

WHY?

I CAN NEVER HEAR IT AGAIN
BANG
WHOA
ISSA
YOU SHOULD COME TOO.
smack
smack
I... IZURU?
smirk
...SHOULDN'T YOU BE ABLE TO COME ALREADY?
I HEARD EVERYTHING FROM MY DAD.
YOU, ON THE DAY OF THE FULL MOON,
KILLED AN ANGEL RIGHT?
WITH THAT SORT OF POWER YOU SHOULD HURRY UP AND HELP
WITH THAT YOU SHOULDN'T BE AFRAID OF THE HUNTS ANYMORE RIGHT?
...AH, IF THAT'S TRUE...
...ANGEL?
KILLED
YOU
KILLED THAT ANGEL
!?
shr Grrrrrgh

I DIDN'T KILL
THAT PERSON TOO
ANGEL?
GRRAAAGHH
I DON'T KNOW THAT SORT OF THING
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
I
DIDN'T KILL
ANYONE
—IS—
ISSA!?

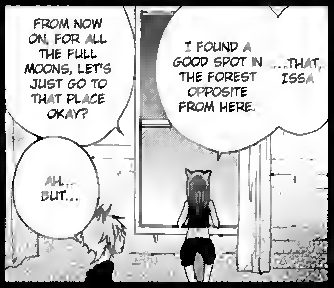
hit
IT'S DANGE-ROUS.
OI OI KONOHA!?
ISSA!
thud
ST—
STOP IT ISSA!
hit
CALM DOWN!
EVERYONE STOP HIM QUICKLY.
THAT PERSON
Haa
Haa
DON'T ISSA
DON'T LOOK AT THE MOON
shaaa
GRR
IS MY "GOD"

KO-NOHA
I
REALLY AM A "WOLF".
SO
NEVER EVEN HAD THE RIGHT TO LIKE THAT PERSON
RIGHT FROM THE BEGINNING.

I MUST LIVE ON AS PART OF THE SHIROGANE

ISSA!
I'M BACK—
AH, ON THE WAY BACK I PICKED SOMETHING UP.
What were you doing?
YOU'RE SO SLOW— ISSA
Welcome back
Here
.....
Let's have risotto today then—
There's even deer!!
Wal rabbits rolls out
Ahh there's more
THERE'S BLOOD.. STUCK ON YOUR FACE
...
...AH!
ISSA
HM?
SORRY ABOUT THAT.
MUST'VE STUCK ON FROM JUST NOW
EVER SINCE THAT DAY
Issa
NOTHING MUCH
runs
... WHAT'S THE MATTER?

ISSA HAS CHANGED.
EVEN THOUGH THAT GENTLE PERSONALITY OF HIS HASN'T CHANGED
WHEN HE HUNTS
HIS EYES
THE ISSA WHOM I HOPED TO BE STRONGER!
CARRIES HIMSELF LIKE THE HOW THOSE FROM THE SHIROGANE SHOULD
BUT
WHY?


FROM NOW ON, FOR ALL THE FULL MOONS, LET'S JUST GO TO THAT PLACE OKAY?
I FOUND A GOOD SPOT IN THE FOREST OPPOSITE FROM HERE.
...THAT, ISSA
AH... BUT...

PLEASE

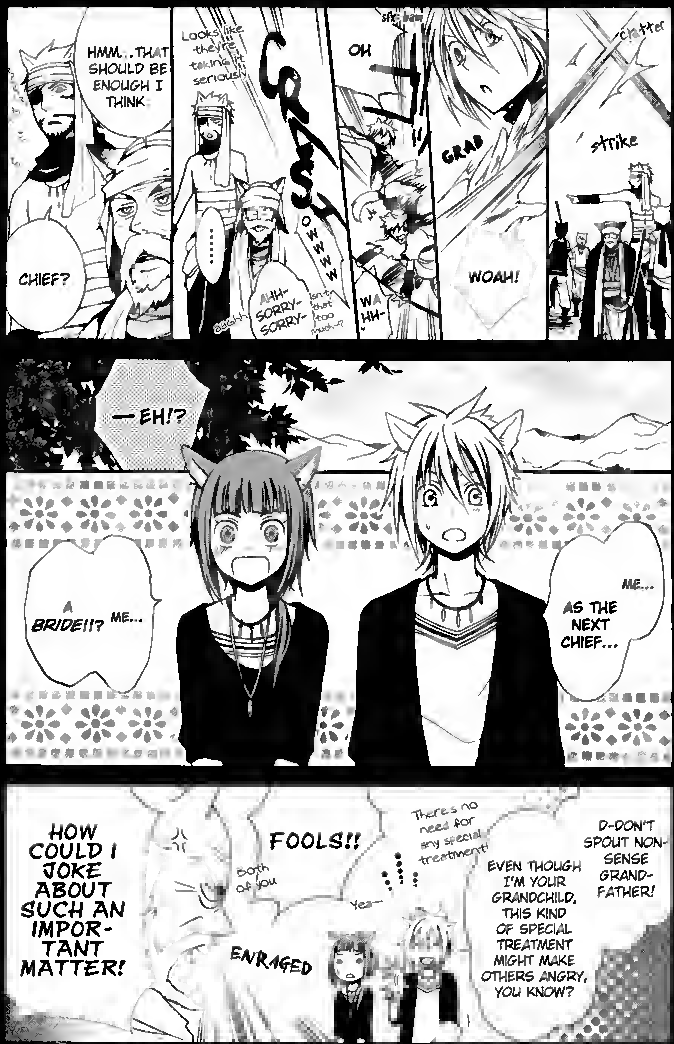
OKAY ...
THANKS

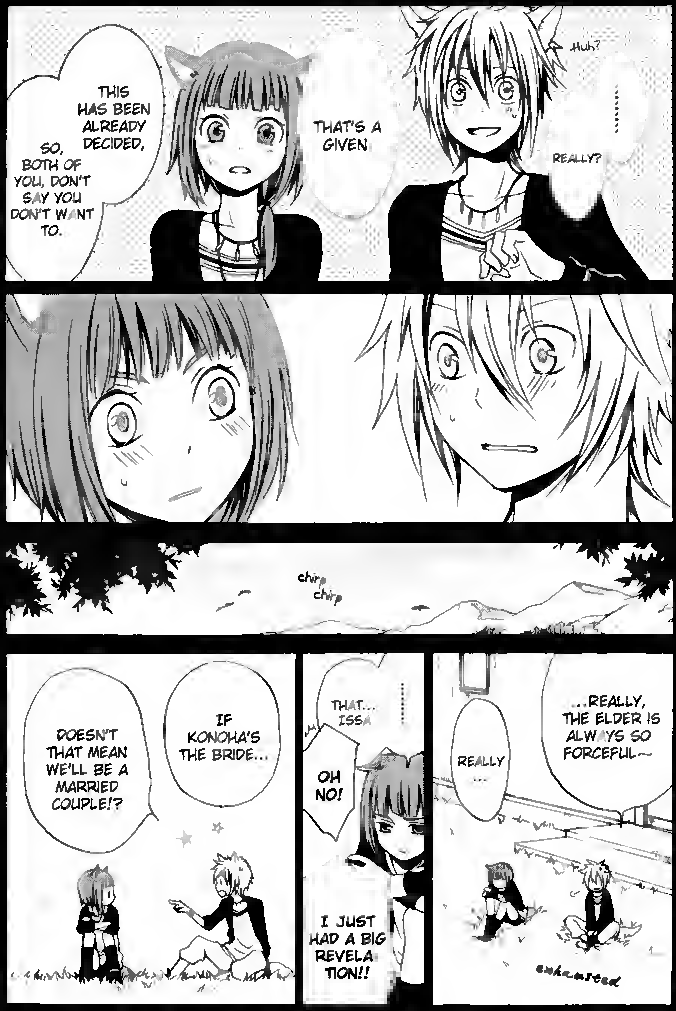
SWISH

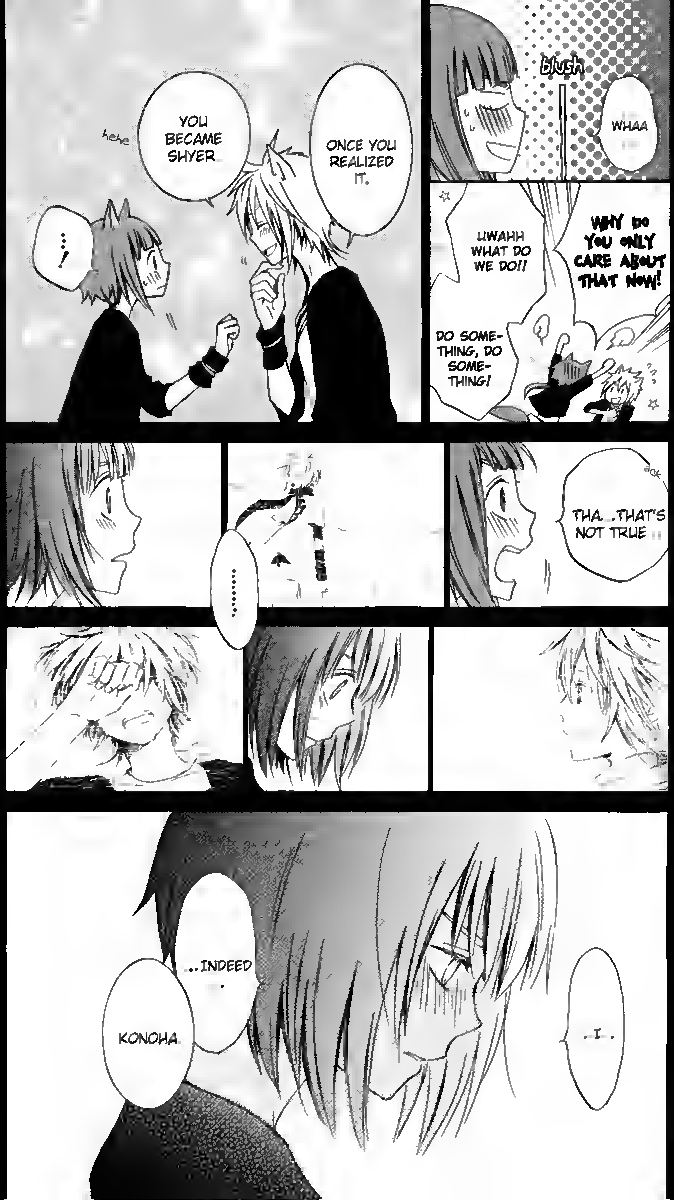
AH, IT'LL BE A FULL MOON SOON

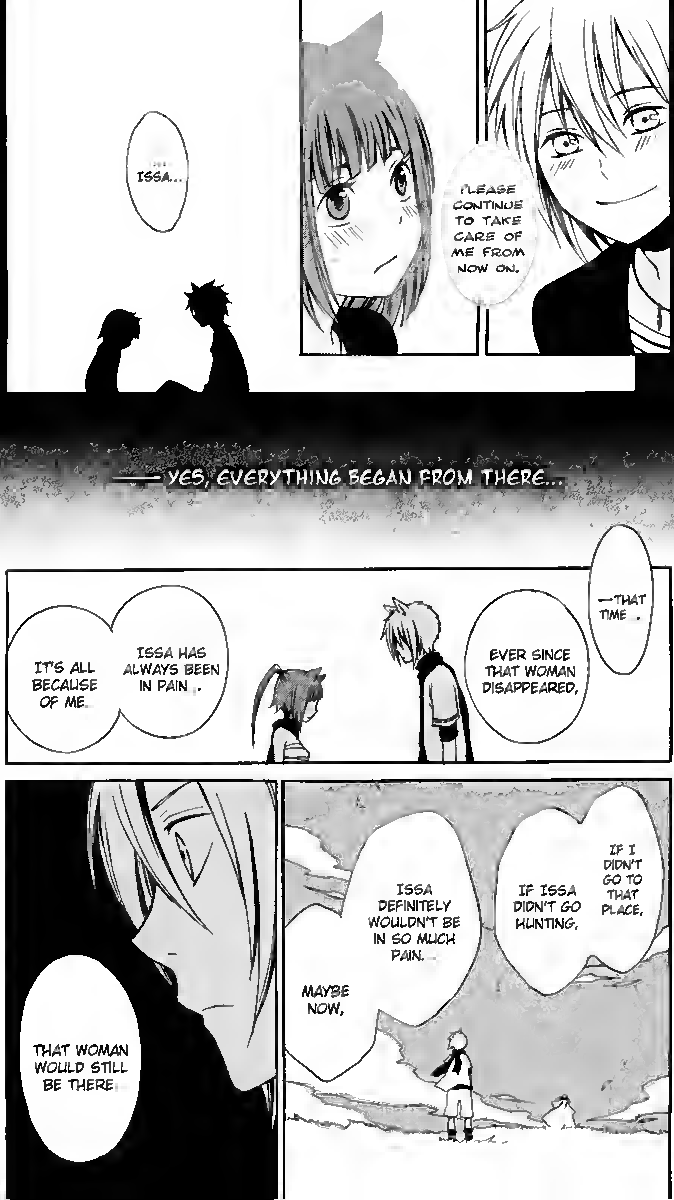
YEA—

WHEN I LOOK AT THE ISSA NOW,
I ALWAYS FEEL LIKE CRYING.


HMM...THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH I THINK
CHIEF?
Looks like they're taking it seriously
CRASH
OWWW
AHH- SORRY- SORRY-
Isn't that too much?
OH
!!
WA HH-
sfx: bam
GRAB
WOAH!
sfx: ttter
strike
—EH!?
A BRIDE!!? ME...
ME... AS THE NEXT CHIEF...
HOW COULD I JOKE ABOUT SUCH AN IMPORTANT MATTER!
ENRAGED
FOOLS!!
both of you
There's no need for any special treatment!
Yes—
D-DON'T SPOUT NONSENSE GRANDFATHER!
EVEN THOUGH I'M YOUR GRANDCHILD, THIS KIND OF SPECIAL TREATMENT MIGHT MAKE OTHERS ANGRY, YOU KNOW?


THIS HAS BEEN ALREADY DECIDED, SO, BOTH OF YOU, DON'T SAY YOU DON'T WANT TO.
THAT'S A GIVEN
Huh?
REALLY?
chirp chirp
IF KONOHA'S THE BRIDE...
DOESN'T THAT MEAN WE'LL BE A MARRIED COUPLE!?
THAT... ISSA
OH NO!
I JUST HAD A BIG REVELATION!!
REALLY...
...REALLY, THE ELDER IS ALWAYS SO FORCEFUL~
ashamed


YOU BECAME SHYER.
ONCE YOU REALIZED IT.
hehe
!
Blush
WHAA
UWAHH WHAT DO WE DO!!
WHY DO YOU ONLY CARE ABOUT THAT NOW!
DO SOME-THING, DO SOME-THING!
THA..THAT'S NOT TRUE
.....
..INDEED.
KONOHA.
.I.


ISSA...
PLEASE CONTINUE TO TAKE CARE OF ME FROM NOW ON.
——YES, EVERYTHING BEGAN FROM THERE...
—THAT TIME.
EVER SINCE THAT WOMAN DISAPPEARED,
ISSA HAS ALWAYS BEEN IN PAIN.
IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF ME.
IF I DIDN'T GO TO THAT PLACE,
IF ISSA DIDN'T GO HUNTING,
ISSA DEFINITELY WOULDN'T BE IN SO MUCH PAIN.
MAYBE NOW,
THAT WOMAN WOULD STILL BE THERE.

...KONOHA... I'VE AL-READY...
I'M SORRY
ME STAYING HERE WOULD ONLY BE AN EYESORE
rattle
KONOHA!
creak
GOOD NIGHT.
CLOSE
!
PRETENDING TO LIKE ME,
...I...
YOU DON'T NEED TO DO THAT
THERE'S NO CHOICE IS THERE...
rub
rub
OF COURSE, SHE'S STILL BOTHERED BY THAT
AH...
.....
IF I DON'T HAVE A GOOD TALK,
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN GET THROUGH TO HER
BUT THE MOON IS ALREADY OUT. I'LL GO FIND KONOHA TOMOR-ROW
...?
WHAT'S THE MATTER...
OI, ISSA ARE YOU IN THERE?

HURRY UP AND COME OUT!
IF YOU DON'T COME OUT,
YOUR PRECIOUS BRIDE,
WHO KNOWS WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO HER?
MY CHIEF.

I DON'T KNOW WHEN IT STARTED BUT

JUST FROM THE FIGURE OF YOUR BACK

I STARTED TO DEVELOP SOME FEELINGS

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KnR
Cleaner: [illegible]
Typesetter: Horrible
Editor: Hoxpiaku
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Translators

Typesetters

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CHAPTER 19 THE FULL MOON AND YOU

HURRY UP AND COME OUT!
MY CHIEF!
THIS VOICE...
IS THAT YOU, IZURU?
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?
DO YOU REALLY THINK THIS IS THE TIME TO TALK?
ISSA?
WHAT?
TSS...
NOW WILL,
YOU JUST LET ME GO AL-READY?!
!?

AAH!
SORRY, NEE-SAN!
BUT IT'S IZUKU ANIKI WHO...
LET ME BREAK THIS DOWN FOR YOU, ISSA
IF YOU DON'T CUT IT OUT, I'LL GIVE YOU A ROUGH TIME, BELIEVE ME!
KONOHA?
EEEK!
AAH!
GET OUT HERE RIGHT NOW!
IF YOU WANT TO SEE YOUR FIANCEE IN ONE PIECE. .
IF YOU AWAKEN.
AFTER ALL, YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO FORCE YOURSELF.
WELL ...
YOU JUST HAVE TO COME OUT HERE.
IT'S NOT HARD.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, IZURU?!

IZURU!
BECAUSE YOU...
NOBODY WILL BE ABLE TO STOP YOU!
MAYBE THIS TIME..
IZURU, CUT IT OUT!
SO...
GR
BA
WH
BUT THAT'S ALL OVER, NOW...
FOLLOWING YOU WAS A CINCH...
YOU SHOULD BE MORE CAREFUL WHEN TRYING TO RENDEZ-VOUS!
I SUGGEST THAT YOU DON'T ADD ANY MORE...
OR IT'S GOING TO GO BADLY FOR YOU, I'M WARNING YOU!
OOH, I'M SO SCARED...
YOU CAN'T STOP PROTECTING HIM, CAN YOU?

TELL ME,
WHAT DO YOU SEE IN HIM, ANYWAY?
KONOHA, YOU'LL WASTE AWAY IF YOU SPEND YOUR LIFE WITH A LOSER LIKE HIM.
WH..
AND
I DON'T UNDER-STAND..
HOW WEAK HE IS.
YOU OF ALL PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW
LET ME GO...

HE MAY HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED TO SUCCEED THE CHIEF...
BUT IT'S ONLY DUE TO FAVORITISM!
IZURU!
OR DID THE OLD MEN GET SCARED AFTER SEEING YOU AS THAT CRAZY WILD MUTT...
IT'S THE ONLY REASON WHY THEY WOULD HAVE CHOSEN HIM!
MAKING A WOLF WHO IS AFRAID OF THE FULL MOON LEADER.
BRINGS NOTHING BUT SHAME ON OUR TRIBE!

SHUT UP! YOU DON'T KNOW ANY-THING!
DON'T FORGET THAT..
YOU NEVER FACE ANY OF YOUR PROB-LEMS..
AND JUST LIVE YOUR LIFE FOOLISHLY LAUGHING THEM AWAY
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!
TELL ME ISSA
DO YOU REALLY WANT TO WALK IN YOUR FATHER'S FOOT-STEPS?
IF YOU HAVE NO MOTIVATION,
THEN YOU SHOULD LEAVE THE TRIBE.
!?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING...
YOU...
ARE AN EYESORE!
YOU! BECOME TRIBE LEADER?
WITHOUT THAT RACING MUTT'S STRENGTH
YOU'RE UNABLE TO BEAT ME!
TCH
IT'S TRUE THAT IZURU IS STRONG...
IF ISSA DOESN'T AWAKEN, I DOUBT HE COULD WIN AGAINST HIM!

GH..
CLENCH
IF THAT'S THE CASE THINK WHAT YOU WANT OF ME, BUT I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO ACT LIKE THIS...
"FRIENDS DON'T FIGHT" AND JUST LAUGH IT OFF...
YOU'LL FIND AN EXCUSE LIKE...
BUT...
YOU DON'T HAVE THE GUTS TO FIGHT ME ANYWAY,
RIGHT?
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH HER?
.....
HMM...GOOD QUESTION!
I COULD GIVE HER TO THE CHIEF, TO BE PUNISHED FOR LETTING YOU GO.
OR

I COULD MAKE HER MY WIFE.
!?
HEY...DON'T JOKE ABOUT THIS KIND OF STUFF...
JOKE?
YOU WOULD MAKE THE PERFECT WIFE FOR ME!
RIGHT NOW...
WHO KNEW THAT A TOMBOY LIKE YOU WOULD BECOME SUCH A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN?
I'M VERY SERIOUS!

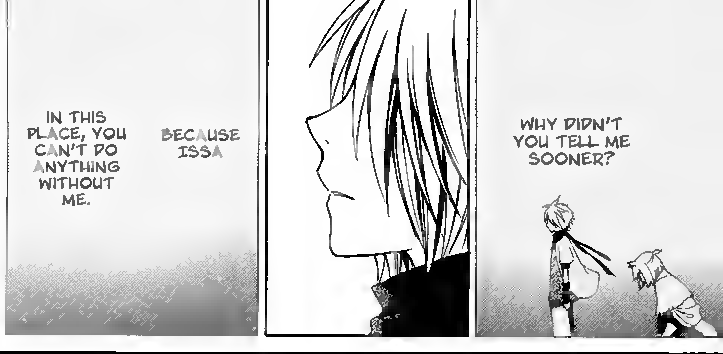
DON'T YOU DARE LAY YOUR FILTHY HANDS ON HER, IZURU!!
STOP
WAIT ...
NO!
N...
AAH!
EMPTY WORDS AGAIN?
.....
NOW YOU'RE JUST...
THE MOON IS RIGHT ABOVE US ...
WELL, IT DOESN'T SURPRISE ME

WELL...
EVEN IF YOU WANTED TO PROTECT KONOHA,
IT'S PROBABLY BETTER FOR HER IF YOU STAY IN THERE...
IF YOU WERE TO AWAKEN NOW...
MAYBE SHE'LL BE THE ONE YOU KILL THIS TIME!
A POOR POWERLESS HUMAN WHO CAN'T EVEN PROTECT THE GIRL HE LOVES!
THEY SAY THAT...
YOU KILLED AN ANGEL?
IT'S KONOHA WHO...
THIS TIME...
ISSA!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, I'M FINE SO,
DON'T COME OUT!
I'M OK!
SO DON'T LISTEN TO HIM.
..KONO..
PLEASE ...
I FEEL FOR YOU...
TO POSSES SUCH PHENOM-ENAL STRENGTH AND BE UNABLE TO CONTROL IT, WHAT A PITY!
HOWEVER, IF YOU DON'T HAVE THE WILL TO FIGHT...
OUR TRIBE HAS NO NEED FOR YOU!

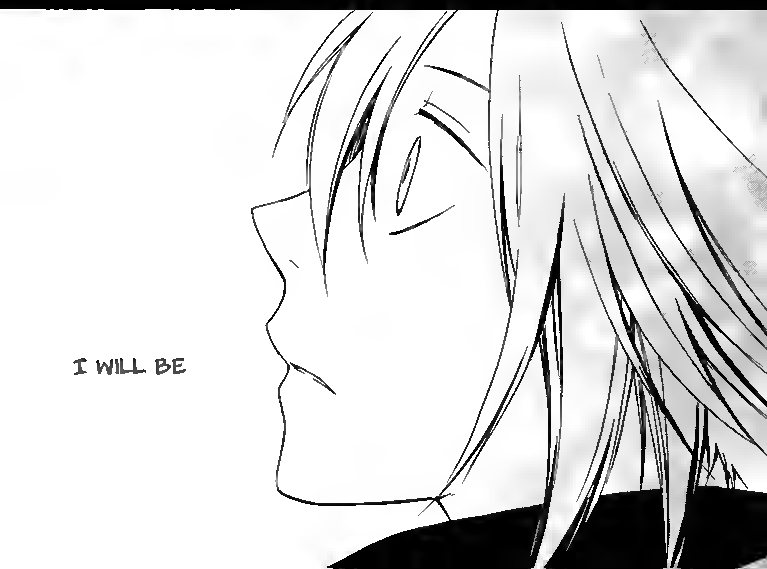
IT'S TRUE THAT ISSA IS AN IDIOT...
I KNOW THAT MUCH...
BUT...
SO WHAT IF HE'S WEAK.
I'LL JUST HAVE TO BE THERE TO PROTECT HIM!
I DON'T PLAN ON MARRYING ANYONE BUT HIM!

IT'S HIM THAT I LOVE...
AND NOBODY ELSE!
FOR THE LONGEST TIME,
ISSA IS THE ONLY ONE,
WHO I
HAVE AND WILL PAY ATTENTION TO!
I WILL BE
THE ONE TO PROTECT HIM!
IF THAT PERSON IS BY MY SIDE, ...SOMEWHOW, I FEEL LIKE I CAN DO ANY-THING.



IN THAT CASE...

YOU JUST HAVE TO STAY WITH ME FOREVER, KONOHA!



BEING PROTECTED,
THINKING
ABOUT MYSELF WAS THE BEST I COULD DO.
I WAS SO BUSY LOOKING UP AT THE SKY THAT I WANDERED DOWN THE WRONG PATH.
THANKS, KONOHA!
GEEZ!
EVEN THOUGH
I AM ALWAYS
THE ONE
THE ONE TO PROTECT HIM!
AHH...

HER SMALL FRAGILE SHOULDERS.
I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN DEPENDING ON
SHE CONTINUED TO SUPPORT ME.
AND YET..
CAN'T EVEN PROTECT THE GIRL HE LOVES!
O...OK.
COME ON, LET'S GO!
GH..
HAAH
I'LL QUICKLY CHANGE YOUR MIND
I SUGGEST YOU CARE-FULLY THINK ABOUT WHAT I SAID!
ISSA
IF YOU REALLY CARE FOR HER,
I'VE CHANGED...

WAIT...
I'M NOT THE SAME ANYMORE!
RUSTLE
AND I NEVER WANT...

TO LOSE CONTROL AGAIN!

BUT...

THUD
...THAT'S... ENOUGH...
I'M SORRY KONOHA...
Cough
I REALLY MAY KILL YOU...
SO...
...GET OUT OF HERE... QUICK-LY...
YOU KNOW...
LOOKS LIKE I'M...
STILL A GOOD FOR NOTHING
ISSA...
SORRY... KONO-HA
COME BACK!!

THESE FEELINGS
I NEVER NOTICED...
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
rustle rustle
I THOUGHT SHE WAS TALLER...
HUH?
SORRY... MY...
AH... ER...
"WHAT ARE YOU DOING ISSA, THEY'RE CALLING FOR YOU!"
!
ba-dump

THIS WAS THE
ONE THING I WANTED TO STAY
IGNORANT ABOUT
BADUMP
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
BADUMP
BADUMP
I SHOULD NEVER AGAIN...
I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO
I WASN'T SUPPOSED TO NOTICE...
BADUMP...
MIND WAS...
SOME-WHERE ELSE...
HE HE HE
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT!

MUST DEFINITELY NOT KNOW
MY FEELINGS FOR HER!
I HAVE TO HIDE THEM
EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE IF I DO.
SHE'S NOT IN LOVE WITH ME ANYWAY
AS HER USELESS LITTLE BROTHER.
I THOUGHT SHE JUST CONSIDERED ME
THAT'S RIGHT...
I SHOULDN'T
SO I HAVE TO MAKE SURE SHE DOESN'T NOTICE!
KONOHA
FALL IN LOVE
WITH SOMEONE.

HALT
S
WHAT'S SO SPE-CIAL ABOUT ME?
WHY DON'T YOU GIVE UP?
WHY, KNONO-HA?
WHY...
AND YET...
"IT'S HIM THAT I LOVE, AND NOBODY ELSE!"

pant
pant
THIS IS WHERE
SHE RESTS
SLUMP
pant
pant
RUSTLE
pant
pant
pant
CLENCH
I...
DON'T WANT TO
LET ME JOIN YOU...
"GOD"
WHOOSH
HURT ANYONE ANYMORE!

ISSA!
GO AWAY...
YOU NO... LONGER NEED TO... TAKE CARE OF ME...
I DON'T CARE.
YOU CAN HATE ME,
IS...
STAY BACK!
KO...
NOHA...
Pant
Pant

THAT'S NOT FAIR, ISSA
YOU'RE ALWAYS RUNNING AWAY FROM THE SLIGHTEST PROBLEMS.
GROW UP ALREADY.
YOU WERE PERFECTLY AWARE
OF MY FEELINGS THIS WHOLE TIME.
AND ONLY STAYED WITH ME..
BECAUSE WE'RE ENGAGED, RIGHT?
DON'T WANT ME ANYMORE,
JUST TELL ME AND I'LL STOP!
IF IT'S WHAT YOU WANT...
IF YOU REALLY THEN..

I WILL STOP LOVING YOU!
IF YOU ONLY LOOK AT HER, NOTHING WILL HAPPEN!
I REMEMBER, NOW...
IT'S BECAUSE OF THAT
SHE DIED
BECAUSE I WAS UNABLE TO
TELL HER HOW I FELT.
AND NOW, IT'S KONOHA'S TURN
TO LEAVE ME.
FORGIVE ME, GOD...

I DON'T WANT
THAT TO HAPPEN
I'M SELFISH...
IS...
SA...
FORGIVE ME

BUT
I WANT TO BE WITH HER.

ISSA...
THE MOON IS STILL OUT...
ER... I... I...
I AM... SO...
PANIC
.....
SHOCK
ER.. WELL ...
AH!!?
PANIC

.....
TO OVER-COME THE MOON?
YOU MAN-AGED .
...YES,
I AM... AS USUAL...
...ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

Ah...
BLUSH
AH...
ER
step
step
step
I KNOW SOMEONE WHO DESERVES A GOOD BEATING!!
RIGHT, LET'S GO BACK!
ACTUALLY...
WOW!
IS THAT TRUE?! I DID IT?!
YES!
YOU SEE, YOU DID IT!!
IT JUST GOES TO SHOW, WHERE THERE'S A WILL, THERE'S A WAY!
GREAT!
I FEEL LIGHTER, AS IF A WEIGHT HAS BEEN TAKEN FROM ME!

JUST...
LEAVE IZURU ALONE...
KONOHA...
MY "GOD"...
HAS BEEN RIGHT HERE THIS WHOLE TIME
Stay with me
I'M SO FULL OF EMOTIONS RIGHT NOW
GEEZ
YOU COULD AT LEAST TRY TO BE CLEARER YOU KNOW!
Ahahaha...
WELL...
WHAT I MEAN RIGHT?
YOU KNOW
.....
TRY
TO NOT HATE ME OKAY?

I CAN'T SEEM PUT IT INTO WORDS .
SO ...
YOU FINALLY DID IT ...
FATHER
NOW YOU CAN FINALLY ...
THIS MEANS THAT THE DAY YOU WILL TAKE LEAD OF OUR TRIBE IS APPROACHING QUICKLY .
PERFECT
IS IT REALLY NECESSARY FOR ME TO KILL THE PRINCE... TO KILL KOUJIROU?
WILL ELIMINATING HIM CHANGE ANYTHING?
CAN'T WE SIMPLY CONTINUE TO LIVE AS WE ALWAYS DONE?
ISSA
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN?
I THINK THAT...
ALL OUR TROUBLES, ARE DUE TO THE "SAKURA FAMILY"
THE FACT THAT THE DEMON WORLD IS SO WEAK
AND THAT WE CAN'T STAND AGAINST THE ANGELS..
BUT ALSO..

KAEDE'S DEATH!
MOM'S..
ENEMIES.
.....
OKAY..
AS SOON AS I UNDER-STAND...
THE MYSTERY THAT SURROUNDS HIM... AND HIS FAMILY,
I WON'T HESITATE
FOR THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE DEMON WORLD...

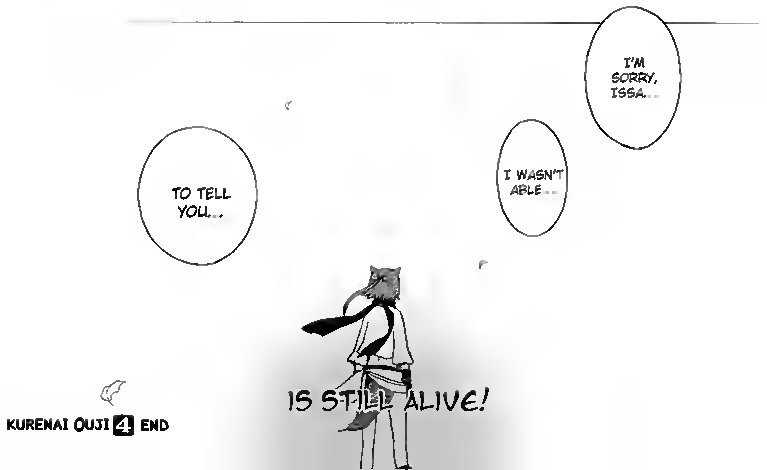
I'LL KILL HIM WITH MY OWNS HANDS!

WHAT'S THIS?
RETURNING TO THE HUMAN WORLD EVEN THOUGH YOU'VE REACHED YOUR GOAL?
chirp chirp
YEAH...
I STILL HAVE THINGS TO SETTLE...
IT'S TOUGH BEING CHIEF!
EXCEPT THAT YOU'RE NOT YET THE CHIEF...
HA HA HA...
THAT SAID...
I NEVER THOUGHT THAT I'D MANAGE...
TO OVERCOME THE MOON!
TO BE HONEST...
SOMETIMES I... SCARE MYSELF.
I BECAME A REAL "WOLF"...
B-BY THE W-Y...
THERE'S SOME-THING...
.....
AH!
OOPS, I HAD COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN!

ACTUALLY...
YOU...
I.. ISSA!
BUT... WAIT!
Sorry!!
ER... I HAVE TO GO!
NO, NOTHING... I JUST FORGOT SOMETHING...
WHAT?
You're terrible! ↓
Bye!
I'M OFF!
ANYONE!
YOU HAVEN'T KILLED...
THE TRUTH, IS
CO...

COME BACK SOON!

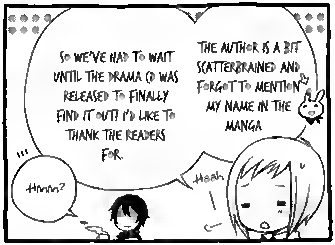
THAT ANGEL


I'M SORRY, ISSA...
I WASN'T ABLE...
TO TELL YOU...
IS STILL ALIVE!

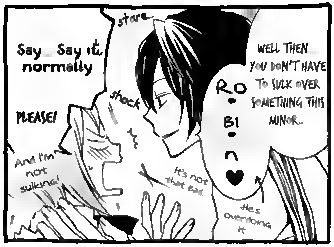
Hello everyone!
Thank you for following the series so far! I hope you had fun reading it, that's all that matters!
Please note that on the day this volume is released, "Kurenai Ouji"s drama CD will also be on sale!
Yaaay!! Thank you soooooo much~~~
It should be released here for Christmas, a true miracle! If you still have some money left at this time don't hesitate. I want to wish you a merry christmas!!!
I never thought I'd be able to hear a recording live..Let alone for my own characters! I'm so happy!! Thanks to the wonderful voice actors, the manga takes another dimension! I hope this living, breathing version will please you as much as the original

To mark the CD release, let's give Robin the spotlight.
Well, I admit it, it's just a play for the CD...
His voice suits the character perfectly! ♥ Feel free to listen to it! ☆
You've got it rough
Well supporting that person is also part of my job

Hello
I am Emma-san's secretary
My name is Robin!
By the way I'm a man


So we've had to wait until the drama CD was released to finally find it out! I'd like to thank the readers for.
The author is a bit scatterbrained and forgot to mention my name in the manga
Hmm?
Yeah

Not even once
I've never called you by your name?
Really?
Are you sure?


Say Say it normally
Please!
And I'm not sulking!
stare
shock
It's not that bad
Well then you don't have to sulk over something this minor...
R.O
B!
n
He's overthinking it

Special Thanks!

Ryouta-kun and Kane-chan

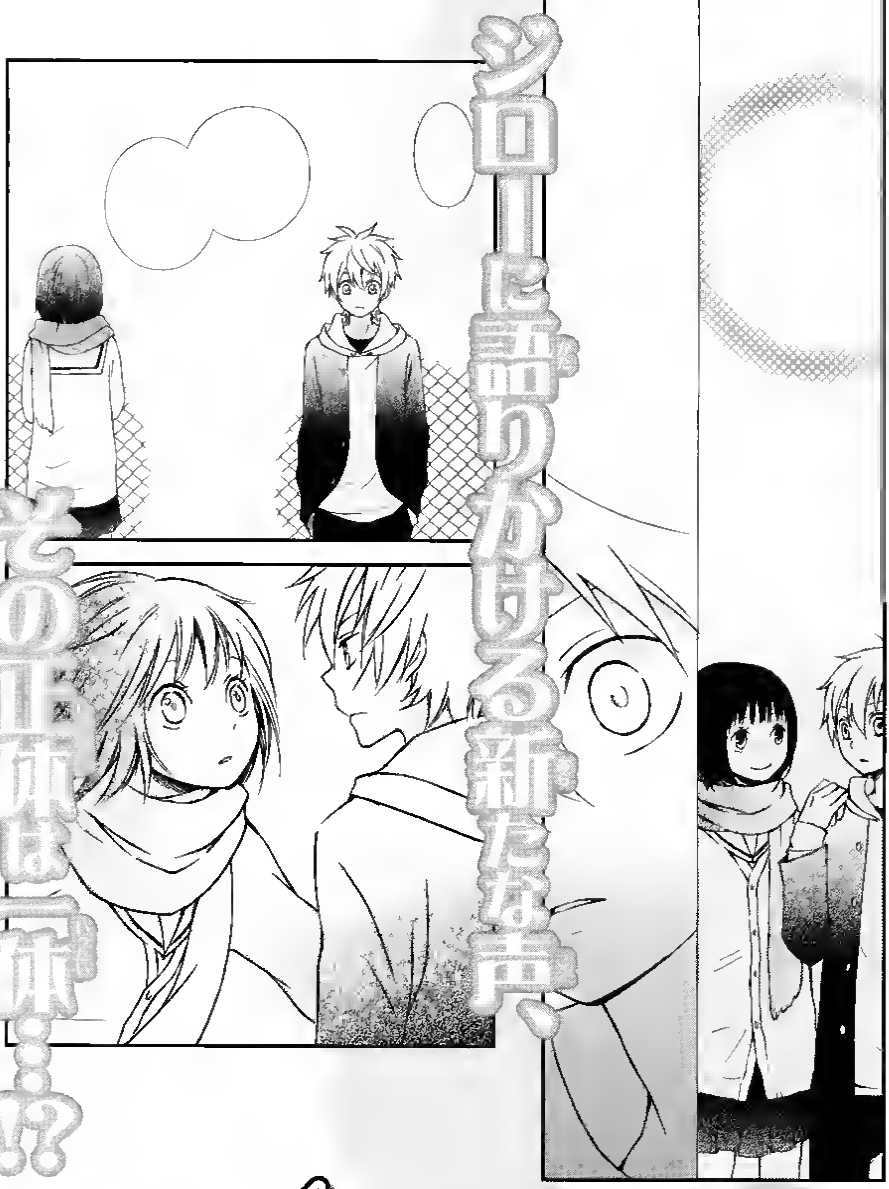
My family

My editor, Shimomura-san

My readers

Thank you all!
See you next volume!

Kouta
2008.12



紅玉王子（くれないおうじ）5巻

やさしくてちょっとせつない悪魔系青春ストーリー

2009年6月頃発売予定!!

ガンガンコミックス

紅心王子 4

2009年1月22日
初版

著　者　　桑原草太

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発行人
田口浩司

発行所
株式会社スクウェア・エニックス

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印刷所　加藤製版印刷株式会社
装幀　前千鶴

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Printed in Japan

ISBN978-4-7575-2441-5 C9979

KUPĖNAI OUJI